Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-92-104
Friday
29 May 1992

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FBIS-NES-92-104 *29 May 1992*

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Egypt

The government signed an economic protocol with Armenia that includes establishing a joint committee on scientific, technical, and economic cooperation, MENA reported. The accord was signed during the Armenian president's visit to Egypt.

Iran

Tehran has called for an "urgent" meeting of the Islamic Conference Organization, ICO, to discuss the events in Bosnia-Hercegovina, IRNA reported. Speaking at a press conference, Deputy Foreign Minister Va'ezi noted that Iran recalled its ambassador from Belgrade and informed Serbia that its ambassador was "not welcome" in Tehran as long as the situation in Bosnia remained unresolved.

Israel

Defense Minister Moshe Arens announced that the blockade on the Gaza Strip will remain in place "for the time being," according to Jerusalem radio. Meanwhile, Brigadier General Yom-Tov Sami', commander of IDF forces in the Gaza Strip, was reprimanded for destroying the home of an Arab suspected of the 27 May murder of a settler before the suspect's family could appeal the demolition order, Jerusalem radio noted. In another development, Palestinians from the occupied territories will be barred from entering Jerusalem on 31 May, during which Israelis will celebrate "Jerusalem Day," Jerusalem International reported.

Lebanon

The government lodged an official protest with the UN Security Council regarding Israeli attacks in the south of the country, Beirut Radio reported.

India

The diplomat reportedly kidnapped and tortured in Pakistan was flown to New Delhi by a "special civilian plane" and was said to be in "serious condition," Delhi radio disclosed.

Islamic Affairs

ICO Calls Emergency Meeting on Bosnia-Hercegovina

LD2905045292 Belgrade TANJUG in English 0343 GMT 29 May 92

[Text] Algiers, May 29 (TANJUG)—The foreign ministers of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) are shortly to convene in an emergency session to discuss the position of the Moslem community in Yugoslavia, it was announced in Dakar, Senegal, on Thursday night.

A statement released by the Senegalese Foreign Ministry says that President Abdou Diouf, the chairman of the OIC, has instructed the OIC secretary general to conduct urgent consultations in this connection.

Since the outbreak of inter-ethnic strife in Bosnia-Hercegovina, the OIC has openly taken the side of the Moslem community in that former Yugoslav republic, extending it political and financial assistance. The Islamic countries are in the forefront of those demanding international sanctions against Serbia and Montenegro, and several of them have recalled their ambassadors in Belgrade "for consultations."

Iran Accused of Training Sudanese Terrorists

PM2805151092 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 24 May 92 p 4

[Unattributed report: "Egypt Watching Al-Turabi's Attempts To Export Terrorism to Its Territory"]

[Text] Cairo, AL-HAYAH—An Egyptian security source has told AL-HAYAH that the security organs "have for some time been watching the attempts by the National Islamic Front in Sudan (led by Dr. Hasan al-Turabi) to export terrorism to Arab locations, including Egypt, in accordance with the Iranian pattern."

The source revealed that the Egyptian security organs "are monitoring three camps on Sudanese territory where armed elements representing the military wings of extremist religious organizations are undergoing training. The three camps are situated on the Red Sea and in the Kaduqli and al-Jurayf areas."

The source said that Dr. 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman, the leader of the Egyptian "Islamic Jihad" organization who is currently living in the United States, "expressed his wish to return to Egypt following the criticisms that he has decided to settle somewhere away from events and has issued impractical fatwas [religious rulings] inconsistent with the real situation in Egypt." The source added that the information available to the Egyptian security organs "confirms that 'Abd-al-Rahman's return is intended imed to abort the plan to remove him from his post in accordance with a fatwa issued by the jihad shura council."

The Egyptian interior minister announced two days ago that the danger to Egypt is "Iranian via the Sudanese borders."

The security source said: "Iranian elements are currently involved in training the armed elements on Sudanese territory. The number of Iranian forces in Sudan has increased from 4,000 to 12,000. They are equipped with modern weapons to tackle Sudan's northern and southern challenges and to train military cadres and militias belonging to the Front for fear that the Armed Forces may ruthlessly attack them and turn against them—which is conceivable in view of past Sudanese experiences."

The Egyptian security organs' information indicates that "some of the Egyptians who took part in the combat operations in Afghanistan will return to Egypt after stopping over in Iran and Sudan to prepare suitable means of disguise and concealment with a view to misleading Egyptian security officers, to prepare falsified identity cards, and to receive 'action orders'."

The Egyptian security source told AL-HAYAH: "Measures have been taken to tighten controls at land, sea, and air entry points in order to foil any sabotage plan. The Egyptian security organs expect some of the infiltrators to engage in family life for some time before starting to make a move."

Palestinian Affairs

Quray, 'Ashrawi Comment on Mideast Talks

LD2705225892 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 27 May 92

[Text] Brother Abu 'Ala [Ahmad Quray], member of the Central Committee of the Fatah movement and coordinator of the proceedings of the working groups committees at the multilateral peace conference, has stated that the conditions to achieve a just peace through the implementation of international legitimacy require an end by Israel of all its settlement activities and repressive measures in the occupied territories, an effective contribution of the United Nations and its institutions, and also Europe's participation. This came in a statement brother Abu 'Ala made yesterday on his arrival at the Lisbon airport, where he said: The Palestinian participation in this group is a continuation of our commitment to the peace process and our serious desire to ensure its success. This is even though the Palestinian representation in this committee is [?insufficient] and unjust and does not reflect the unity of our Palestinian people inside, outside, and in Jerusalem as one people with their history, culture, civilization, heritage, and sacred and permanent ties in their homeland.

Brother Abu 'Ala pointed out that the Palestinian delegation will mention this point at the meetings and said: We will stress it and demand that it is taken into consideration until this error is righted. Our delegation, which is made up of competent people and scientific and technical experts specialized in economic development, refugees, water resources, [?environment and ?disarmament], will contribute together with the participating

parties to find formulas [words indistinct] in order to achieve peace, security, and stability in the Middle East and to guarantee our people's right to self determination.

For her part, sister Hanan 'Ashrawi, spokeswoman for the Palestinian delegation at the peace negotiations, said in the Hague yesterday: We want a Palestinian state and we will do whatever is possible to obtain it through negotiations.

After praising the peace process, which allowed the Palestinians to obtain the recognition of their national identity as a nation among nations, 'Ashrawi expressed her regret that this process had not laid down a structure defining responsibilities before which Israel could be brought to account for its actions like any other state.

Sister 'Ashrawi also denounced the racist character of Israel's policy and said: The occupation has established a real system of racial segregation. Israel has stamped racism in its political and legislative system and has always behaved as if it were above the law and it deserved special treatment. Ashrawi added: I do not believe that the majority of the Israeli people are racist but [?torture] is a racist act.

Regarding the bilateral negotiations, 'Ashrawi said: The real negotiations have not effectively started yet because the date of the Israeli elections is getting nearer. She added: The Israeli negotiators have taken their election campaign to Washington and have tried to preserve a semblance of a peace process while preventing any progress.

PLO Officials Review Central Council Meetings

JN2605131492 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 26 May 92 p 3

[Text] A seminar on the results of the PLO Central Council meetings was held last Sunday at the Shuman Foundation [in Amman
or al-Tayyib 'Abd-al-Rahim, and Council members Saji Salamah, Salih Ra'fat, 'Abd-al-Rahim Malluh, and Taysir 'Aruri took part.

The Palestinian ambassador said there was a consensus that the Madrid formula was unjust and that amending this formula is part of our responsibilities. He added that the real battle is the one that is taking place in the conflict's arena. The political battle is being waged by the PLO, and the negotiating delegation is not an alternative leadership. He said the Palestinian factor is still the decisive one.

He said that we have to reassess the situation and think of a political alternative to the possible failure of the current political efforts lest the new world order should crush us as it did others.

He added that the Palestinians were the people most harmed by the Gulf war, the difficult economic conditions in the occupied Arab territories, and the economic and political siege on the PLO. He said the Palestine question is no longer one of the central causes of several Arab countries. He referred to the Palestinian people's situation in southern Lebanon, the breakup of the Soviet Union and the socialist bloc, the strike against the Iraqi power, the siege on Libya, as well as the threats to Syrian power. He also mentioned the readiness of some Arabs to negotiate with Israel without the PLO, and to the declining role of the United Nations and its submission to the United States, as other factors that harmed the Palestinian people.

In contrast, he said, the Palestinian independent national identity has been entrenched, the Russian and Ukrainian emigration has been curtailed, and conflicts within Israel and between the United States and Israel have been created. He added that the level of Palestinian-U.S. dialogue has been upgraded, the unity of the Palestinian representation has been consolidated, and the isolation of the PLO has been broken.

He added, however, that the PLO has failed to break the economic siege imposed on it and normalization with the Gulf states has not taken place as we had been promised. He said that there are fears that the Arab-Israeli normalization will begin.

He referred to the resumption of relations between Israel and each of India and China.

He said that participation in the negotiating process may have weakened the interest in other fields of struggle, and called for rectifying this situation immediately. He described the continuation of settlement building as a form of defiance, and noted the Jewish emigration from Ethiopia, and now from Syria.

Salih Ra'fat believes that the peace process has strengthened relations between the PLO and the Jordanian Government. This has been achieved through the signing of the Jordanian- Palestinian agreement on the eve of the Madrid conference, the formation of the joint delegation, and the continued bilateral cooperation and coordination. This, he added, has paved the way for the PLO to play a major role in drafting coordination among the Arab parties participating in the peace process, toward healing the wounds of the Gulf war, and realizing Arab interests.

Ra'fat asserted that the PLO Central Council resolutions on the peace process were in harmony with what was presented by the majority. In addition, he said, the resolutions valued the militant role played by the Palestinian delegation and reiterated the soundness of the Palestinian negotiating position concerning all issues presented at the negotiating table.

Ra'fat reviewed the opposing and supporting trends that prevailed in the meetings of the Central Council.

'Abd-al-Rahim Mullawih said that a nondemocratic atmosphere prevailed and unjustified reactions dominated the meetings of the PLO Central Council, which consequently, harmed the Council. He added that differences concerning the Palestinian representation in the

political process still exist. In addition, he added, there are concerns about national unity and safeguarding the PLO as a political identity and as sole, legitimate representative despite political differences.

Saji Salim said that the PLO Central Council meetings showed that the opposition to the ongoing political process has expanded. He added that what the PLO leadership now proposes is far from reality; it is confiscating the Palestinian people's view and misleading them. He said that democratic dialogue means conveying the truth to the Palestinian people. What is happening, however, is contrary to this. Salim said: The PLO is saying that the delegation comprises Palestinians from inside and outside the occupied territory, from Jerusalem, Europe, and Japan; that it is mediating to find a place for them in the negotiations; that Baker is learning from us; that we have broken the isolation of the PLO; that we have isolated Israel in the world; that we have undermined the relationship between Israel and the United States; that we will overcome the problem of settlements; and that power will be transferred during the transitional period through holding elections. He said that what is happening on the ground is contrary to all this.

Salim added that the Palestinian delegation represents only a small sector; it does not represent the Palestinian people. He said that the members of the delegation made concessions that could no longer be ignored. The settlements, he said, have continued; the issue of refugees has been transferred from the bilateral course; and the international legitimacy resolutions have been ignored.

Taysir 'Aruri said that the negotiations have not yet begun because no agreement has been reached on a joint agenda. He noted that once agreement is reached on an agenda, the negotiations will begin. He said that the meetings of the PLO Central Council were quiet compared with previous meetings. He added that contrary to all expectations agreement was easily reached during this meeting.

Al-Husayni Urges End To Collaborator Murders

TA2605140492 Jerusalem AL-SHA'B in Arabic 26 May 92 p 1

[Text] Nazareth—Faysal al-Husayni has stressed that the growing number of killings by Palestinians of persons accused of collaborating with Israel has created an urgent need for a popular movement and the forging of Palestinian public opinion to confront and to end this worrisome phenomenon.

He added that the Palestinian leadership is making every effort to put an end to everything that might constitute an injustice to any person, including the Palestinian, who is suffering a lot because of the current situation.

Al-Husayni was speaking at a Nazareth ceremony honoring Arab poets from the occupied territories.

U.S. Must Resolve 'Contradiction' in Policy

LD2905085892 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 28 May 92

[Station commentary]

[Text] The document that was reported by world news agencies two days ago as spelling out U.S. strategic goals for the current phase and during the post cold war phase and the establishment of the new world order contains significant parts, the most important of which is the continuous and constant U.S. support for Israel. This support, in clear words, means Israel's qualitative supremacy over all Arab states. Departing from this very part, the document moves on to another part or second goal which is Washington's commitment to the political and negotiations operation in the region that would result in the Arab-Israeli peace and the Palestinian-Israeli peace.

Therefore, we would like to pose a question about the contradiction of this course. How can the U.S. Administration understand that the peace can succeed and bear fruit at the end of the day only by keeping Israel superior, quantitatively and qualitatively, over all Arab states? What would these multilateral negotiations in Washington on controlling arms in the region, including in particular Israel's spectrum of weaponry, achieve, as long as Washington itself continues supplying Israel with all forms of military supremacy, which in real terms means more U.S. arms for Israel and more sophisticated military technology?

Such U.S. strategic goals for Israel's supremacy contradict and contravene, frankly and at all levels and standards, the aim of the peaceful and political settlement, which is the aim of ending wars in the entire region, resulting in horizons of reassuring safe peoples and states that strive for a civilized progress that is compatible with the meaning and the significance of peace. Washington is called on to solve this serious contradiction so that our Middle East peace will be a true peace that will be handed over generation after generation.

Egypt

More on Visit by Armenian Presidential Delegation

Economic Protocol Signed

NC2705135392 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1020 GMT 27 May 92

[Text] Cairo, 27 May (MENA)—Egypt and Armenia signed an economic cooperation agreement today. Dr. Maurice Makramallah, minister of state for international cooperation, signed the document for Egypt, and Grant Bagratyan, chairman of the State Committee for Economy and deputy prime minister, signed on behalf of Armenia.

The agreement aims to boost friendly ties and develop economic, scientific, and technical cooperation between the two countries, particularly in the fields of industry, agriculture, electricity, energy, transport, communications, scientific research, education, culture, environmental protection, tourism, sports, and joint projects.

According to the agreement, a joint committee on economic, scientific, and technical cooperation will be set up which will form the nucleus for contacts involving the exchange of information and expertise. The committee will meet alternatively in Cairo and Yerevan once a year.

Musa Receives Foreign Minister

NC2705191492 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1753 GMT 27 May 92

[Text] Cairo, 27 May (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa met with Armenian Foreign Minister Raffi Hovannisian this evening. Hovannisian is currently visiting Cairo as part of the delegation accompanying the Armenian president on his tour. During the meeting, the two ministers took up the issues raised this morning during President Mubarak's meeting with Armenian President Ter- Petrosyan. The talks also dealt with ways to develop bilateral relations, the situation in the newly independent CIS republics, and the problem of Nagorno-Karabakh and the chances of reaching a peaceful solution, which could stop further bloodshed between Armenia and Azerbaijan and establish the basis for peaceful relations between them. International issues of mutual interest and the peace efforts to solve the Middle East crisis were also viewed.

In a statement after the meeting, Hovannisian said: We discussed many issues, particularly the Nagorno- Karabakh crisis. He added that the appropriate solution is a peaceful settlement based on democratic dialogue and human rights, especially because the region's problem goes back 70 years, to Stalin's time.

He said that Armenia and Azerbaijan lived side by side for many years and added that he was confident that a solution based on a peaceful settlement can be reached with the help of the international community and the participation of the leaders of the two communities in Nagorno-Karabakh.

The Armenian foreign minister discussed Egyptian mediation in the conflict, saying: The region is not the subject of dispute. The real problem is between Karabakh and Azerbaijan. Armenia is seeking to play a role in achieving peace. He explained that Egypt will decide how it can help achieve a solution, particularly because Egypt represents an example of democracy in the Middle East and has played the role of mediator on several different occasions.

He said he hopes Egypt will intensify its efforts not only regarding the Nagorno-Karabakh crisis, but also with the new Commonwealth states to assist them in building their independent states on democratic basis.

'Abd-al-Majid Meets Ter-Petrosyan

NC2805120492 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1110 GMT 28 May 92

[Text] Cairo, 28 May (MENA)—Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, met Armenian President Levon Ter-Petrosyan before he left Cairo today at the end of his official visit to Egypt. Ter-Petrosyan said his country welcomes all the Arab countries through its relations with Egypt and Syria, because the Armenian and Arab peoples are bound by historic ties and common goals, based on UN principles and international charters.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid said the Armenian president's visit to the Arab League emphasizes the desire to bolster friendship and cooperation with the Arab countries. He welcomed this important step and the Armenian concern for solving problems with Azerbaijan peacefully.

Ter-Petrosyan Meets Mubarak, Departs

NC2805090992 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0720 GMT 28 May 92

[Text] Cairo, 28 May (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak has received Armenian President Levon Ter-Petrosyan at the Presidential Palace. The foreign ministers of the two countries also attended the meeting. President Mubarak bid farewell to Ter-Petrosyan at the Presidential Palace, and Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa then accompanied the Armenian president to Cairo Airport.

Armenian President Ter-Petrosyan left Cairo this morning after a three-day official visit. During his visit, he held talks on bilateral relations, the situation in the new Commonwealth of Independent States, and means of establishing a just peace in its republics. Foreign Minister Musa saw the Armenian president off at Cairo Airport.

Economic Cooperation Agreement Signed With Turkey

TA2705164292 Ankara ANATOLIA in English 1430 GMT 27 May 92

[Text] Cairo, May 27 (AA)—The 5th term joint economic commission meetings between Turkey and Egypt ended here on Wednesday with the signature of a cooperation agreement.

The agreement was signed by State Minister Mehmet Batalli and Egyptian International Cooperation Minister Maurice Makramallah.

Speaking at the signature ceremony, Batalli said both countries will make efforts to develop bilateral cooperation on economic and trading relations.

The agreement foresees development of cooperation in trade, economic and technical fields as well as communications, transports, agriculture and tourism.

It also foresees the setting up of a Turkish-Egyptian businessmen council.

Batalli and accompanying delegation will return to Turkey on Thursday.

Turkish Minister Departs 28 May

NC2805120592 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1059 GMT 28 May 92

[Text] Cairo, 28 May (MENA)—Turkish Minister of State Mehmet Batalli left Cairo this morning after a visit to Egypt lasting several days, during which he signed a protocol on economic and technical cooperation between Egypt and Turkey. The protocol establishes joint projects and encourages trade exchange between private sectors in both countries.

'Arafat Thanks Mubarak for Helping Repair Shrines

NC2305085892 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 2000 GMT 22 May 92

[Text] Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat expressed today his gratitude and appreciation for President Husni Mubarak's decision to send Egyptian experts in Islamic art to occupied Jerusalem to help repair the Islamic and Christian places in Jerusalem.

'Arafat stressed that Egypt's participation in this noble action to repair and maintain the blessed al-Aqsa Mosque and the Dome of the Rock embodies the cultural, religious, and humanitarian ties throughout the ages between the two fraternal peoples.

He added that this contribution emphasizes Egypt's historic and pan-Arab role of defending the holy places.

'Feverish Israeli Aggression' on Lebanon Decried

NC2905083892 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0618 GMT 29 May 92

[Text] Cairo, 29 May (MENA)—In their editorials today, the Egyptian newspapers denounce the feverish Israeli aggression against south Lebanon and attempts to drag Syria into a battle. The papers warn Israel of the dangers of pursuing its policy of threats.

AL-AHRAM says escalating tension and confrontation hard on the heels of the past few days of successive Israeli military operations in south Lebanon causes great concern, particularly after Israeli Prime Minister Shamir stated that these operations against Hizballah bases and its leaders will continue until attacks on the pro-Israel South Lebanese Army [SLA] deployed in the border strip, which Israel calls the security strip, stop.

AL-AHRAM says this serious situation is aggravated by the escalating Israeli military operations being accompanied by implicit and explicit threats to Syria and by attempts to blame it for instability in south Lebanon. Uri Lubrani, coordinator of Israeli policy in south Lebanon, claims Syria has not shouldered its responsibility for disarming all military militiamen in south Lebanon, in line with al-Ta'if Accord. Deriding his claim, AL-AHRAM says Israel uses al-Ta'if as a pretext and ignores that it calls for disarming the militiamen in the south and also for liberating south Lebanon from the presence of the agents of the so- called SLA and of the Israeli military. The Israeli presence constitutes an illegal occupation of Lebanese territory and violates Lebanon's sovereignty.

AL-AHRAM says the Lebanese resistance has tried to avoid giving Israel pretexts, limiting its operations to the security zone and the occupied security strip, although they are Lebanese territory over which Israel has no right to custodianship. The paper wonders if the Israelis think it a crime to resist occupation on national soil. The paper emphasizes that resisting occupation is legal, recognized by all international norms and charters. It says we have never heard of people resisting occupation of their land surrendering to the occupier's claims and agreeing to disarm before the usurper withdraws. The paper says that if Israel wants stability in south Lebanon and tranquility on both sides of the border, it should respond to the international community's will and immediately begin implementing Security Council Resolution 425, providing for its final withdrawal from south Lebanon.

AL-JUMHURIYAH says the effort to delude the Israeli voter that intransigence and extremism are the best way to preserve the occupied territories and make the Arabs accept Shamir's demand as a price for peace includes emphasizing continuing attacks on south Lebanon. The paper says these attacks cover settlement building and the repression of Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza—the world will be busy denouncing the continuing aggression against the innocent people whose villages have been destroyed and whose kin are detained.

AL-JUMHURIYAH says the Israeli Government led by Shamir forgets that continuing aggression against south Lebanon and the Arab territories goes beyond the election campaign's requirements and hurts the peace effort. The paper notes that Egypt's Foreign Ministry condemned the Israeli aggression against Lebanon and demanded an immediate halt to the aggression. It appealed to the international community represented by the United Nations to take the necessary measures to confront the aggression, to save innocent people, and to demand that peace negotiations' sponsors, the United States and Russia, act to stop the aggression, which causes destruction and harms the peace efforts.

Under the headline "What Is Behind The Feverish Campaign Against Lebanon?," AL-AKHBAR says it is no coincidence that the Likud bloc, which planned and carried out the invasion of Lebanon ten years ago, is the same one that is now led by Shamir, who believes he can achieve former Likud leader Menahem Begin's goal of liquidating all Lebanese national resistance members. The Lebanese resistance has become a thorn in Israel's side. Its constant activity against the Israeli settlements next to south Lebanon proved that the security strip occupied by Israel for years could not guarantee the freedom which Israeli leaders believed would let Israeli border residents sleep in peace.

AL-AKHBAR says there are several indicators that the new Israeli plans aim to drag the Syrian forces in Lebanon into a decisive confrontation so that Shamir can torpedo the ongoing peace efforts in the region. The Likud leader has not given up hope of achieving this, despite his past maneuvers failing. Shamir seems to forget that the previous invasion of Lebanon would not have taken place had the Reagan government not given Tel Aviv the green light, which studies by certain U.S. historians have disclosed. The paper wonders if Shamir hopes to obtain such a green light from the George Bush administration and his Foreign Secretary James Baker, whose role in calling for and insisting on peace negotiations by any means is acknowledged. Concluding its editorial, the paper says the coming days and weeks will reveal the truth.

Fuel, Bread, Cigarette Prices To Rise in July

NC2305094492 Cairo AL-AHALI in Arabic 20 May 92 p 1

[Text] AL-AHALI has learned that the Higher Committee on Policies meeting under Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi has approved a program to increase prices in July, the date the new 1992-1993 budget is introduced. The new program aims at reducing the general budget deficit from 5 to 3.5 percent in implementation of IMF conditions. An IMF delegation has asked the government to search for real alternatives to reduce the deficit by raising prices and imposing direct and indirect taxes on all commodities and services.

According to the program, the prices of bread will be increased. This will be done by reducing the weight of the local loaf of bread while maintaining its current price and increasing the price of the foreign loaf of bread from 7.5 to 10 piasters.

Fuel prices also will be increased. The price of one liter of 90-octane gasoline will increase from 80 to 100 piasters and the price of one liter of 80-octane gasoline will increase from 70 to 90 piasters. The prices of electricity will also increase, according to levels of consumption. The price of one butane gas cylinder will increase from 250 to 350 piasters.

Local cigarette prices will increase by 10 piasters for each packet of 20. Locally produced foreign cigarette prices will increase by 25 piasters for each packet of 20.

Sudan

Armed Forces Take Rebel Stronghold in Equatoria

EA2805180092 Khartoum SUNA in French 1635 GMT 28 May 92

[Text] Khartoum, 28 May (SUNA)—The Sudanese Armed Forces have scored another victory by liberating Kapoeta in eastern Equatoria on 28 May, a communique issued on 28 May by the people's Armed Forces Command announced.

According to the communique, the Armed Forces captured Kapoeta at 1100 GMT on 28 May, adding that the town is considered to be a stronghold of the rebel forces belonging to John Garang's Torit faction.

Retired Colonel Sentenced to Death for Espionage

EA2805180592 Khartoum SUNA in French 1644 GMT 28 May 92

[Text] Khartoum, 28 May (SUNA)—A special court has condemned Colonel (retired) Nasr Hasan Bashir Nasr to death for espionage in the service of an enemy of Sudan and for having passed on classified national documents.

[A Sudanese diplomat with this name was expelled from Kenya in March 1989]

Western Sahara

Polisario Official on Referendum, Algerian Support

JN2605170692 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1940 GMT 25 May 92

[Recorded interview with Mohamed Abdelaziz, secretary general of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Saquia El Hamra and Rio de Oro, Polisario, "who is currently on a visit to Paris," by Muhammad Kalash; date not given—interview carried within the "Today's Guest" program]

[Excerpts] [Kalash] Mr. Abdelaziz, with regard to the referendum, do you believe that the international situation is still appropriate for the holding of such a referendum?

[Abdelaziz] Yes, we believe so. There are basic principles upon which the new world order is founded. These include respect for global legitimacy and international law, and, consequently, respect for people's right to self-determination and to security within their national borders.

On the other hand, after 17 years of fierce struggle waged by the people of Western Sahara to achieve their rights to freedom, independence, and existence—struggle waged against the Moroccan Kingdom, which unjustly and aggressively wanted to annex our land and annihilate and displace

our people—we decided to make tremendous efforts on all fronts to end this problem. [passage omitted]

[Kalash] Mr. Abdelaziz, what is the viewpoint you want to convey to French officials, and what do you expect from them?

[Abdelaziz] France is a permanent member of the Security Council, and is a major country. [passage indistinct] France is called upon to play a [word indistinct] role in this region. [passage omitted]

[Kalash] Which countries are still supporting the Polisario, especially after the collapse of the Eastern bloc?

[Abdelaziz] As a reminder, even during the cold war and the East-West conflict, the Polisario never received material or military assistance from the Warsaw Pact countries. But it has always received support and backing from African countries, nonaligned nations, and some democratic forces around the world, including political parties and humanitarian organizations. [passage omitted]

[Kalash] With the changes and developments in Algeria, has the Algerian position toward the Polisario changed?

[Abdelaziz] No. Algeria's position is firm. It is a traditional position supporting the right of the people of Western Sahara to self-determination and backing the peace plan. Algerian officials have recently expressed this position to us [words indistinct]. [passage omitted]

President on Possible Morocco-Algeria Rapprochement

LD2705210192 Paris Radio France International in French 1230 GMT 27 May 92

[Excerpts] Our guest in the studio is SDAR [Saharan Democratic Arab Republic] President Mohamed Abdelaziz who yesterday ended a two-week visit to France. Here he is interviewed by Christophe Boisbouvier. [passage omitted]

[Boisbouvier] As you know, King Hassan II of Morocco received new Algerian President Mohamed Boudiaf in Rabat last week. Do you not fear a possible rapprochement between Morocco and Algeria at your expense?

[Abdelaziz] It is not at all a contradiction that Algeria should have relations with Morocco and also with the SDAR and the Sahraoui people, supporting the legitimate rights of our people and the UN peace plan at the same time.

[Boisbouvier] Have you not been worried though, since the interview in which the Algerian president said he was prepared to settle the Sahara problem in a bilateral framework between Morocco and Algeria?

[Abdelaziz] We are not worried. On the contrary, we are reassured of the continuity of the principled stand of the Algerian Government on the side of the just cause of the Sahraoui people.

[Boisbouvier] Have you met Mohamed Boudiaf since he has become president?

[Abdelaziz] I have not had any meeting with him, but in any case we are maintaining permanent contacts with the Algerian leadership, with the Algerian Government. The Algerian stand has been confirmed, reiterated.

[Boisbouvier] Are you not lacking important international support? Apparently you were not received by any official authorities during your visit to France.

[Abdelaziz] It has been a very, very useful visit that has enabled me to meet all the French political forces in spite of not being officially received by the government, but our viewpoint on the situation has been conveyed to the French Government.

[Boisbouvier] It is 17 years since you started your fight for independence. There are some signs of defection, some signs of weariness among your troops, there are sometimes contacts between countries like Algeria and Morocco. Are you not afraid that time might work against you?

[Abdelaziz] On the contrary. The Sahraoui nationalism was very strong and has increased further. The faith of the Sahraoui people in their rights and in victory of the law in our country is stronger than ever.

[Boisbouvier] Despite successive defections in the past few years and even last week?

[Abdelaziz] I think that the Moroccans are issuing a lot of propaganda on this subject, which is not important. It is true that there are individuals who went to Morocco, but there are dozens and even hundreds who are coming to join the Polisario Front fighters' ranks—there are very many. The Sahraoui people, be they in exile or in our occupied territories, stand united around the Polisario Front and the fight for freedom.

Bahrain

Iranian Minister Comments on Visit, Departs

JN2805141992 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1145 GMT 28 May 92

[Text] Manama, 28 May (WAKH)—At noon today, Iranian Commerce Minister 'Abdol Hoseyn Vahaji left Manama at the end of a four-day visit to Bahrain during which he held talks dealing with the bolstering of bilateral relations in the commercial and economic fields.

A memorandum of understanding was concluded on the meetings held between the Bahraini minister of commerce and agriculture and the Iranian minister during his visit to Bahrain. This memorandum emphasizes the development of bilateral commercial and economic relations, the setting up of trade fairs in both countries, the exchange of visits by representatives of the public and private sectors, and increasing cooperation in the investment fields as well as the volume of imports and exports.

Vahaji hailed the results of his visit to Bahrain, describing the trip as fruitful and constructive for consolidating bilateral commercial and economic cooperation.

In a statement to WAKH, the Iranian minister said his visit to Bahrain was held at the invitation of the minister of trade and agriculture. He said he was honored by his meeting with his highness the amir of Bahrain and his highness the prime minister. He added that at these meetings he discussed with them ways of increasing bilateral cooperation in the economic and investment fields.

The Iranian minister said he held several meetings with a number of ranking government officials and the Bahraini Chamber of Trade and Industry.

Vahaji also said that during the talks, it was agreed with Commerce and Agriculture Minister Habib Ahmad al-Qasim to arrange for trade fairs and the exchange of official visits in both countries, in addition to agreeing on ways of increasing the horizons of commercial, economic, and investment cooperation that benefit the people of the two countries.

Diplomatic Relations Established With Kazakhstan

JN2805185492 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1800 GMT 28 May 92

[Text] Manama, 28 May (WAKH)—The State of Bahrain and the Republic of Kazakhstan have agreed to establish bilateral diplomatic relations on the ambassadorial level as of today.

The Bahraini Foreign Ministry issued the following statement today:

The State of Bahrain and the Republic of Kazakhstan, expressing their belief in the spirit of friendship, solidarity, and the profound historical relations between the two states in the political, economic, cultural, and humanitarian fields; and out of their desire to promote relations between the two countries on the basis of equality, mutual respect for sovereignty, and territorial integrity, and noninterference in internal affairs in accordance with the principles of international law and the UN Charter, have agreed to establish bilateral diplomatic relations on the ambassadorial level, in accordance with the 1961 Vienna Agreement.

This statement was signed in Alma-Ata on 28 May 1992 in two original copies in Arabic and Kazakh.

Kuwait

Kuwait Denies Deal With Iraq on POWs' Release

LD2905094292 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0820 GMT 29 May 92

[Excerpt] United Nations, 29 May (KUNA)—Kuwait last night denied press reports about the existence of a deal involving a reduction of UN Security Council sanctions against Iraq in return for the release of Kuwaiti prisoners and detainees in Iraqi prisons.

Muhammad al-Sallal, Kuwaiti charge d'affaires at the United Nations, said in answer to a KUNA question "those reports are untrue." He went on to say "Kuwait's stance is clear: We are against any reduction or lifting of the sanctions unless Iraq abides by all UN Security Council resolutions, not just one." [passage omitted]

Iraqi 'Obstruction' of Border Demarcation Seen

LD2805221192 Kuwait Radio Kuwait in Arabic 2100 GMT 28 May 92

[Text] The Kuwaiti permanent representative to the United Nations, Muhammad Abu al-Hasan, said that he told UN Secretary General Dr. Butrus Ghali that Kuwait was considering with concern the Iraqi regime's obstruction of the work of the international committee for the demarcation of Kuwaiti-Iraqi borders.

In a statement to KUNA, Muhammad Abu al-Hasan pointed out that in a special meeting with the UN secretary general he drew his attention to the graveness of the situation and to the threats issued by the Iraqi regime. He referred to a statement issued by the so-called Iraqi National Assembly in which it rejected the work of that committee.

The Kuwaiti permanent representative to the United Nations pointed out that by obstructing the work of the committee, the Iraqi regime violated UN Security Council Resolution No. 687, which specifies, among the articles of the cease-fire agreement of the Kuwait liberation war, the formation of the international committee entrusted with the demarcation of the borders. He added that the Iraqi regime's opposition to the work of the committee also contradicted its previous agreement to that resolution and the articles of the cease-fire agreement, which it signed at the end of the Kuwait liberation war.

Saudi Arabia

Yemen Lacking 'Seriousness' on Border Issue

LD2905081492 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2155 GMT 28 May 92

[Text] Riyadh, 28 May (SPA)—Commenting on what Sanaa Radio attributed to President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of Yemen, on 22.11.1412 AH, corresponding to 24 May 1992, on the issue of the borders between the two countries, a responsible source stated the following to SPA:

"Saudi Arabia would like to explain that during the past years, and through numerous Saudi initiatives, Saudi Arabia has tried to negotiate with the Yemeni side to demarcate the remaining part of the borders according to the al-Ta'if treaty. Saudi Arabia was committed to achieving results that would secure the rights of both countries. In spite of the Saudi efforts and initiatives, Saudi Arabia did not find any serious wish on the Yemeni side to reach an agreement."

The responsible source added: "It is noteworthy that even the Saudi request to the Yemeni Government merely to rebuild the obliterated features of the demarcation agreed according to the al-Ta'if treaty did not meet any response from the other side. If the Yemeni side would like to show some seriousness and goodwill, then it should immediately start to rebuild what has been obliterated of these features and begin the demarcation of the remaining part of the borders."

The responsible source continued: "Saudi Arabia would like to emphasize its continuous commitment to good neighborliness and good relations between the two fraternal countries, and also to emphasize that it does not transgress against anyone and does not have any territorial ambitions on other people's territories according to its clear and well-known policy."

Saudi, Iranian Hajj Ministers Meet in Medina

LD2805212792 Tehran IRNA in English 1643 GMT 28 May 92

[Text] Al-Medinah, May 28, IRNA—Saudi Minister of Hajj Affairs and Awqaf (Religious Endowments) here today hailed the message of unity of the leader of the Islamic revolution Ayatollah 'Ali Khamene'i as a means of "reducing previous tensions between Sunni and Shi'ite Muslims."

Shaykh 'Abd-al-Wahhab Ahmad 'Abd-al-Wasi in a meeting with head of the Iranian hajj pilgrims Hojjat ol-Eslam Mohammad Mohammadi Reyshahri also welcomed him to Saudi Arabia on behalf of King Fahd.

Referring to the two countries' "good relations", Reyshahri replied that instructions of the leader of the Islamic revolution concerning the unity between Muslims particularly during the hajj ceremony, will be accomplished completely.

Pointing to the need for renovation of the Baqie Cemetery in Medina, where four of the 12 infallible imams of the prophet's (PBUH) [peace be upon him] household lie in repose, Reyshahri said Iran was ready to provide the related expenses.

The Imams Hasan Bin 'Ali, 'Ali Bin al-Hoseyn Za'in al-Abedin, Mohammad Bin 'Ali al-Baqer and Ja'far Bin Mohammad as-Sadeq' respectively the 2nd, 4th, 5th and 6th Infallible Imams (peace be upon them) are in Baqie.

'Abd-al-Wasi said his government would soon take measures for the betterment of the current "undesirable condition" of the Baqie Cemetery, adding that some plans are underway in this regard.

He also hailed the discipline of the Iranians among the hajj pilgrims and said the Saudi government will try to prepare more facilities for the Iranian pilgrims.

Swedish Minister Praises Outcome of Visit

LD2805225292 Riyadh SPA in English 1935 GMT 28 May 92

[Text] Riyadh, May 28, SPA—The Swedish Minister of Transports and Communications Mats Odell has praised the outcome of his current visit to the Kingdom.

He told reporters in Riyadh on Thursday he had met with several Saudi officials in the course of his visit to discuss means of boosting bilateral cooperation especially in the fields of transports and communications.

"We look forward to more cooperation between the two countries," he said adding that the Kingdom represents a highly advanced society that still maintains its principles and values.

United Arab Emirates

Red Crescent Delegation Leaves for Croatia

JN2805135492 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1130 GMT 28 May 92

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 28 May (WAKH)—A delegation of the United Arab Emirates [UAE] Red Crescent Society left for Croatia today to provide relief aid to refugees from the Republic of Bosnia-Hercegovina.

This was announced by 'Id Khamis al-Muhayri, chairman of the Foreign Relations and International Hygiene Department at the Ministry of Health and chairman of the UAE Red Crescent Society.

Al-Muhayri added that the delegation will conduct an inspection tour of refugee assembly areas in Croatia to apprise itself of the refugees' living and health conditions. The delegation will then purchase relief aid worth 250,000 dirhams from nearby markets and have this aid distributed among those affected by the ongoing war between Serbs and Muslims in the Republic of Bosnia-Hercegovina.

The Red Crescent delegation will prepare a comprehensive report on the status of refugees, their numbers, assembly areas, and their urgent and pressing needs as well.

Diplomatic Ties Established With Brunei 28 May

JN2905095792 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0930 GMT 29 May 92

[Excerpt] Abu Dhabi, 29 May (WAKH)—The United Arab Emirates and Brunei have decided to establish diplomatic relations on the ambassadorial level as of 28 May 1992. [passage omitted]

Yemen

'Arafat Arrives for Talks 28 May, Makes Statement

JN2805133092 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 28 May 92

[Text] Brother struggler Yasir 'Arafat, president of the state of Palestine, PLO Executive Committee chairman, and commander in chief of the Palestinian Revolution Forces, arrived in Sanaa today on a visit to our country. In a statement to the Yemeni news agency, SABA', brother Yasir 'Arafat indicated that his visit is for consultations with brothers Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih and 'Ali Salim al-Bid on Palestinian and Arab developments. He also noted that the multilateral talks in Lisbon are due to conclude today. Brother 'Arafat added: We need to compare notes about the Arab, and especially the Palestinian, performance to advance overall Arab interests. We will also be discussing the intifadah, which has begun to sweep the entire Palestinian territory, he added. 'Arafat commended the principled stand of the Yemeni leadership and people alongside their persevering Palestinian brethren.

On hand to welcome brother 'Arafat were brother Muhammad 'Ali Haytham, member of the General Committee of the General People's Congress, an official from the Presidential Protocol, Palestinian Ambassador in Sanaa Yahya Rabah, and other officials of the Palestinian revolution.

President Salih Receives 'Arafat

JN2805190392 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1603 GMT 28 May 92

[Text] Brother Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, chairman of the [Yemeni] Presidential Council, today received, in the presence of brother Dr. Yasin Sa'id Nu'man, speaker of the Council of Representatives, brother struggler leader Yasir 'Arafat, president of the state of Palestine, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, and commander in chief of the Palestinian revolution forces, who is currently visiting the Republic of Yemen.

During the meeting, they reviewed issues and developments of concern to our Arab nation. For his part, brother president Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] extended his heartfelt congratulations to the brother president, to the Presidential Council members, and to the Yemeni people on the Republic of Yemen's second unity anniversary and the reestablishment of the Yemeni homeland. He indicated that Yemeni unity is the candle whose light guides all unity-orientated and well-meaning members of the nation. He added that Yemeni unity is a manifestation of the victory of the Arab and Islamic nation's will and an enhancement of its potentials in the face of challenges.

Brother president Abu-'Ammar, president of the state of Palestine and chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, apprised the brother Presidential Council chairman of Palestinian developments and also of the outcome of Palestinian participation in the multilateral talks to achieve peace in the region. He also briefed the brother Presidential Council chairman on developments pertaining to the Palestinian intifadah against the background of the escalation of Zionist repression and tyranny against our Palestinian people in the occupied Arab territories.

During the meeting, the brother Presidential Council chairman affirmed the principled Yemeni stand in support of the Palestinian people's struggle to restore their legitimate rights.

The meeting was attended by brothers Muhammad 'Ali Haytham, member of the General Committee; Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, member of the PLO Executive Committee; 'Abdallah Hurani, member of the PLO Executive Committee; Bassam Abu-Sharif, political adviser to brother president Abu-'Ammar; Ahmad 'Abd-al-Rahman, official PLO spokesman; and Abu-Humayd [not further identified], commander of Palestinian troops in Sanaa.

Two Arrested in Justice Minister Assassination Bid

JN2905072592 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0430 GMT 29 May 92

[Text] An official source at the Ministry of Interior and Security has told the Yemeni News Agency, SABA', that over the past two days the Ministry of Interior's security organs have located and arrested two of those accused of attempting to kill Minister of Justice 'Abd-al- Wasi' Sallam. The source added that the two were arrested after a chase in Sa'dah Governorate. The official source also said that the main element behind the assassination attempt is still at large, and the search for him continues in order to finalize the investigation and turn the perpetrators over to justice to be [word indistinct] punished.

Husayn Kamil Hasan on al-Basrah 'Water Project'

JN2805180792 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 28 May 92

[Text] Leader President Saddam Husayn has ordered that the al- Basrah water project—aptly named "Loyalty of the Leader"—provide fresh water to the city of al-Nasiriyah, Suq al-Shuyukh district, as well as to the city of al-Basrah.

This news was communicated to INA by Staff Lieutenant General Husayn Kamil Hasan, adviser to the president of the Republic and official in charge of the Military Industrialization Organization, who described the order as a noble gesture by a great leader, that carries the noblest meanings of loyalty to our great, unyielding people.

Staff Lieutenant General Husayn Kamil Hasan said that the necessary expansion of the project will be made so to provide fresh water to al-Nasiriyah city and Suq al-Shuyukh district from a 212- km-long canal that will be established, and that the necessary designs will be made to get water from areas that are near them. He added that the canal will pump 8 cubic meters per second, and that part of the water will be allocated for the above purpose.

Staff Lieutenant General Husayn Kamil Hasan added that the mujahidin of the Military Industrialization Organization received this order from the great leader with extreme joy, since they will be the ones to execute the order of his excellency the leader president, so as to serve the unyielding Iraqi people. He went on to say that they will accomplish the mission in record time, not to exceed eight months, while the project was originally planned to take 36 months. He noted that the project will be carried out according to high standards in loyalty to the sons of our struggling people and to break the unjust blockade.

The military industrialization staff will make Iraq always take pride in their achievements. They also pledged to President Saddam Husayn, may God protect him, to remain at his bidding and to make endless sacrifices, he said.

Al-Majid in Marshlands; 'Frenzied Raids' Continue

NC2805161492 (Clandestine) Voice of Rebellious Iraq in Arabic 1327 GMT 28 May 92

[Text] Since the start of this week, Saddam's aggressive planes have continued to wage their frenzied raids on populated areas in al-'Amarah marshlands. The 'Aflaqites collapsing regime this time used helicopters and fixed-wing fighter planes, despite the United Nations claiming that it has banned this regime from using these planes.

Saddam has failed in his attempts to hide his defeats before the popular uprising in the marshlands. The raids caused only minor injury among defenseless women, children, and the elderly.

These regions' sons and those of the rest of our rebelling towns are confronting the Saddamite attacks with patience, determination, and revolutionaries' heroism. They mock the stands of the United Nations' and international organizations' representatives on Saddam's disregard and his use of fixed-wing fighter planes.

Coward Saddam's men are being dealt crushing blows. After our mujahidin defeated and scattered these aggressive groups, the butcher 'Ali Hasan al-Majid, Saddam's defense minister, headed toward the operations area in the marshlands. He is there now, trying to track down the defeated ranking officers and reorganize his scattered flocks.

'K-3' Karkuk-al-Basrah Pipeline Station Repaired

JN2805140092 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1310 GMT 28 May 92

[Text] Baghdad, 28 May (INA)—Technical teams of the Northern Petroleum Organization [NPO] have finished repair work on the K-3 station, which is linked with the strategic line for the transport of crude oil from Karkuk to al-Basrah and back.

NPO Chairman Ghazi Sabir said that repairing other stations during the past period has made it possible for oil from the south to flow toward the northern areas or to be exported via Turkey. The NPO chairman also said that with the repair of the K-3 station, it is now possible to transport oil from northern fields to al-Basrah, where it can be exported via the southern outlets when the blockade is lifted.

It is worth noting that oil pumping stations and oil installations and fields were among the chief targets of the U.S. forces and their allies in their aggression against Iraq.

FAO To Help Contain Infectious Cattle Disease

JN2805134592 Baghdad INA in English 1305 GMT 28 May 92

[Text] Baghdad, May 28, INA—Iraq and the U.N Food and Agriculture Organization, FAO, signed today an agreement to render an urgent assistance to Iraq for combating the cattle plague .

The FAO pledged to render the necessary vaccinations and various equipment to help the Iraqi competent authorities combat this infectious disease which spread in a neighbouring country.

Health Minister, 'Medicine for Peace' Doctor Meet

JN2705191892 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1725 GMT 27 May 92

[Text] Baghdad, 27 May (INA)—Dr. Umid Midhat Mubarak, minister of health and acting minister of labor and social affairs, today met with Dr. George Thomas, member of the U.S. "Medicine for Peace" organization. [names of official and organization as received]

The two sides discussed cooperation in the field of humanitarian medical aid and the possibility of the organization treating Iraqi children, injured by the U.S.-Atlantic-Zionist aggression on Iraq, outside the country.

Dr. Mubarak urged the Medicine for Peace organization to exert effective efforts to unfreeze Iraqi assets held abroad to enable Iraq to secure medicine and food for its sons. He also urged the organization to mobilize public opinion and have it bring pressure to bear on the United States so that it will not interfere in Iraq's domestic affairs.

U.S., Saudis Seen Plotting To Destabilize Yemen

JN2805134192 Baghdad INA in English 1210 GMT 20 May 92

[Text] Baghdad, May 28, INA—AL-THAWRAH daily, organ of the Arab Ba'th Socialist Party, confirmed that the Saudi regime was involved in a conspiracy aimed at destabilizing Yemen and undermining its national unity.

In an article published today, the daily said that this conspiracy began after the declaration of unity between the two parts of Yemen when around one million Yemenis had been expelled from Saudi Arabia in a move meant to weaken the Yemeni economy.

The daily added that Washington was planning to destroy Yemen politically and economically through its main agent [King] Fahd, referring to the Saudi claims to Yemeni territories and the calls to stop oil exploration in certain areas of Yemen.

It stressed that all indications proved that the Saudi regime was nothing but a docile instrument in the hands of the imperialists ready to implement the schemes they prepared against the states of the region.

The paper made it clear that the Saudi stance, which was part of the American plan, had been adopted as a kind [of] punishment for Yemen for its support for Iraq.

AL-THAWRAH pointed out that the Saudi rulers had taken advantage of the current Arab situation and Iraq's preoccupation with rebuilding what had been destroyed during the 30-state aggression to serve their mean ends.

It confirmed that targeting Yemen, Sudan and Libya and conspiring against Palestine represented an extension of the 30-state aggression, calling the attention to the fact that this chapter would not be the last in the Saudi record of treason.

German Observers on Kurdish Relief Needs, Election

AU2905073992 Frankfurt/Main FRANKFURTER RUNDSCHAU in German 27 May 92 p 2

[Report by "FF": "Bonn Should Recognize Kurdistan"]

[Text] Bonn, 26 May—The German observers of the elections in Iraqi Kurdistan have called upon the Federal Government to establish official relations with the future national Kurdish parliament. Greens Federal Executive Board Member Angelika Beer said upon her return from Kurdistan that the consequence of the first free parliamentary elections in Iraqi Kurdistan must be the "recognition of the Kurdish reality." Beer said she was very pleased that the elections were democratic, "except for very minor irregularities."

The delegation, which consisted of representatives of the Greens and the PDS [Party of Democratic Socialism], the Medico International organization, a clergyman, reorters, and translators, had—together with foreign politicians—followed an appeal of the Kurdistan Front, a coalition of seven opposition Iraqi parties, which had called upon the international public to send observers to northern Iraq for the protection of the Kurdish people against attacks by the Turkish and Iraqi Armies. The winners of the elections are the two largest Iraqi Kurdish parties. The parliament will meet on 1 June.

Beer and PDS Bundestag Deputy Ursula Fischer called upon the Federal Government to advocate the idea that the United Nations lift the embargo against Iraq for the Kurdish part of the country without delay. They consider this necessary to make the Kurds more independent of the neighboring countries that have brought pressure to bear on the Kurdish people time and again by blocking the borders. In addition, they believe that the U.S. protective forces should, for the time being, continue to be deployed in southeastern Turkey to protect the Kurds against the Iraqi Army. In addition, the protection zone should be extended to the 34th degree of latitude.

Finally, the German delegation called upon the Federal Government to grant more economic and financial aid for the reconstruction of Kurdistan. According to Ursula Fischer, humanitarian aid is not sufficient "because the survival of the Kurdish people is also a political problem."

Reportage on Gaza Blockade, Aftermath of Unrest

Gaza Strip Closure Extended

TA2805194792 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1900 GMT 28 May 92

[Text] After consultations, security officials today decided that the closure on the Gaza Strip will not be lifted until they confirm that the circumstances justify its termination. Our police affairs correspondent Moshe Nussbaum reports that Police Minister Roni Milo this evening announced that even after the closure is lifted, severe restrictions will be imposed to prevent the entry of Gaza Strip Arabs who are considered high security risks. Minister Milo said those regulations were designed to guarantee the safety of Israeli citizens. The police minister was speaking at a communal bar mitzvah ceremony for the sons of policemen in Tel Aviv.

Arens—Gaza Sealed for 'Time Being'

TA2905082092 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0800 GMT 29 May 92

[Text] The blockade on the Gaza Strip will continue on Sunday and will not be lifted for the time being. This was decided this morning by Defense Minister Moshe Arens. Our correspondent Yo'av Aviv reports that the minister has still not decided when the blockade will be lifted. This morning, he received evaluations on developments in the Gaza Strip.

Settlers Continue 'Protest Vigil'

TA2805142892 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1400 GMT 28 May 92

[Text] The protest vigil near Kfar Darom at the site where Rabbi Shim'on Biran was murdered will continue. That was decided by representatives of the Council of Jewish Settlements in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza; the Amana settling movement; and the Hof 'Aza regional council at a meeting in Kfar Darom today. The settlers intend to keep the vigil up until the deportation orders issued against intifadah activists in the territories are implemented. At the meeting it was also decided to set up a new settlement in Gush Qatif, which will be named after five of the area's settlers who were murdered there, some of them by Gaza Strip residents.

General Reprimanded for Hasty Demolition

TA2805171192 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1605 GMT 28 May 92

[Text] Major General Matan Vilna'i, the commander of the Southern Command, has reprimanded Brigadier General Yom-Tov Sami', the commander of the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] in the Gaza Strip, for ordering the demolition of the home of the Arab suspected of murdering Rabbi Shim'on Biran without giving the man's family a chance to appeal the decision.

In response to a question by our correspondent Moti Amir, the IDF spokesman said that Maj. Gen. Matan Vilna'i had conducted a hearing on the matter with Brig. Gen. Sami'. The commander of the IDF forces in the Gaza Strip explained the special circumstances in the area in the wake of the incident that had led him to order the home's destruction without giving its owners the opportunity to appeal the decision. Brig. Gen. Sami' stressed that prior to the demolition he had taken all the necessary steps to prevent any damage to nearby houses or any injury to residents in the vicinity of the destroyed home.

After receiving the clarifications, Maj. Gen. Vilna'i decided to reprimand Brig. Gen. Sami'. IDF sources stressed that the reprimand was handed down because the family of the murder suspect had not been given the right to appeal the decision, and not because of the actual order to destroy the home.

Arabs Condemn Recent Murders, Violence

TA2805172792 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Arabic 1630 GMT 28 May 92

[Text] Mr. Ibrahim Nimr-Husayn, chairman of the National Committee of Arab Local Councils, issued a statement today in which, on behalf of the Arab councils, he condemned the murder of the Bat Yam pupil, Helena Rapp, and that of the rabbi from Kfar Darom. He also condemned the violent reaction against Arab citizens and the Nazareth citizen. He said that reckless acts harm the Arab and Jewish peoples. He appealed to all officials and heads of local councils to calm tempers, and he asked the police to provide protection for Arab citizens working in Israel.

Shamir Urges Calm, Order in Bat Yam

TA2805195292 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 28 May 92

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir said he understands the fury and pain over the despicable murders in Bat Yam and Kefar Darom. At a rally in Ramat Gan this evening, the prime minister called on Bat Yam residents to keep the peace and refrain from attacking the police and security personnel entrusted with upholding the law.

9 Bay Yam Rioters Arrested

TA2905045892 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0400 GMT 29 May 92

[Text] In Bat Yam last night, nine people were arrested in yet another night of rioting in the city. Many of those arrested were youths who set garbage containers on fire and burned tires. Police vehicles stayed away last night, and arrests were made instead by plainclothes detectives.

President Hayim Herzog says those who riot in the streets show a lack of faith in Israel's independence and, for all intents and purposes, are threatening the state's existence. Concluding his visit to Poland, Herzog told

Qol Yisra'el he would take some of those rioters with him to Auschwitz to see what happens when you ignore the principles of Judaism and democracy.

Territories Arabs Barred From Jerusalem 31 May

TA2905050792 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0400 GMT 29 May 92

[Text] In advance of Jerusalem Day on Sunday, Arabs from the territories will be barred from entering the capital from 4 AM Sunday [0100 GMT on 31 May] for 24 hours. Over 2,000 police and soldiers will be mobilized in Jerusalem on Sunday. Police expect some 100,000 people to descend on the capital for the various festivities.

Reportage on Recent Violence, Conflict in Lebanon

Prisoner Trade With Hizballah Considered

TA2905110592 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1000 GMT 29 May 92

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Sources in Lebanon told our correspondent Yo'av Aviv that the SLA [South Lebanese Army] commander is holding contacts in an effort to free the four soldiers taken captive by Hizballah. The sources said that General Lahd believes that there is a possibility of releasing Hizballah members held in south Lebanon in exchange for the freeing of his soldiers.

Meetings With Syria, Lebanon Planned

TA2805140692 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 28 May 92 pp 1, 15

[Report by special AL-QUDS correspondent]

[Text] Cairo—AL-QUDS has learned that preparations are underway to convene Syrian-Israeli and Lebanese-Israeli meetings soon, before the sixth round of bilateral negotiations, the date of which has not been set yet.

Cairo sources have said that the U.S. Administration will take part in those meetings to try to bridge the gap between the two sides, which has caused Syria and Lebanon to boycott the multilateral talks.

The sources did not specify either the timing or the venue for the two meetings, but they stressed that the meetings will take place before the sixth round of bilateral negotiations.

In another development, intensive Arab consultations are being conducted with the U.S. Administration as part of the efforts to resume the Palestinian-U.S. dialogue in a bid to resolve all pending problems, provide the Palestinians with the U.S. guarantees that they have asked for, reach agreement on formulas to advance the peace process, and stop the acts of violence and liquidation practiced by Israel against Palestinians in the occupied Arab lands.

Weapons Seized After Clash

TA2805145292 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1400 GMT 28 May 92

[Text] Searches in the western sector near where a South Lebanese Army [SLA] unit last night clashed with terrorists have yielded hand grenades, a grenade launcher, roadside bombs, guns, and many other weapons. Our correspondent Yo'av Aviv reports that IDF [Israel Defense Forces] sources say that these terrorists were Hizballah members on their way to perpetrate a terrorist act in Israel. In the clash, early this morning, one terrorist was killed and another critically wounded.

Shamir Interviewed on Relationship With EC

AU2705124592 Paris AFP in English 1148 GMT 27 May 92

[Text] Paris, May 27 (AFP)—Israeli Premier Yitzhaq Shamir said Wednesday [27 May] that "profound differences" over the Palestinian issue are seriously hampering his country's relations with the European Community.

In an interview published in the daily LA CROIX, Shamir said that despite "efforts on both sides to pursue the dialogue...there is a major discrepancy of views" between Israel and the E.C. "These profound differences still weigh heavily on our relationship with Europe," Shamir said. "The situation with the United States is completely different, thanks to the very solid basis of our special relationship, although there are disagreements on the territorial questions of the state of Israel."

Asked if U.S. pressures could lead Israel to modify its policy of settlements in the occupied territories, Shamir said: "No one can force us to do anything whatsoever."

Shamir said claims that a reinforced Israeli military presence in southern Lebanon means it has "aggressive aims" on Lebanon were "nonsense." "We have no territorial aspirations as far as Lebanon is concerned," he said. "What we want at our side is a free, independent and sovereign Lebanon that exercises real power on its territory. We have no intention of hurting Lebanon's interests."

Shamir said he was pleased with "the extraordinary progress" of Israel's relations with foreign powers "despite the fact that almost the entire international community disagrees with our regional policy."

"Many very important countries that never had ties with Israel—notably China, India and Nigeria—have decided to establish diplomatic relations," Shamir said. "This is a major development that will have beneficial effects on our economy."

Shamir Meets With Sierra Leone Minister

TA2805103692 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1000 GMT 28 May 92

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir has invited the president of Sierra Leone to visit Israel. He presented the invitation at a meeting with the Sierra Leone foreign minister this morning. Shamir said the renewal of diplomatic relations between the two countries will help both sides. He said Israel will be able to contribute by using its experience in the areas of agriculture, food industry, health, and regional planning.

Levi Confers With Visiting French Minister

TA2705143392 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0900 GMT 27 May 92

[Text] Dominique Strauss-Hahn, the visiting French minister of industry and foreign trade, this morning conferred with Foreign Minister David Levi on the enhancement of bilateral economic and scientific relations. Our political correspondent Arye Golan reports that the French guest said he was dissatisfied with the volume of trade between the two countries and that he would encourage French industrialists to develop their ties with Israel. Minister Levi asked the guest to revise the decision to require Israeli citizens to get entry visas to visit France. Our correspondent Nicholas Rosenbaum reports that the French minister will confer with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir at noon.

Further Reportage on Election Campaigns, Ads

Hatiqva, SHAS, Tehiya Launch Ads

TA2505152992

[Editorial Report] Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el at 0431 GMT and at 1031 GMT on 25 May airs another batch of election campaign ads by parties not previously covered.

Hatiqva's ad comes at 0442 GMT. It is delivered by faction leader Knesset Member [MK] Charlie Biton, who chastises Labor and Likud for dwelling on trivia, such as Rabin's drinking habits or whether Shamir is or is not a liar, rather than with pressing social issues such as families unable to make their mortgage payments, unemployment, education, and health services.

SHAS' [Torah Observing Sephardis] ad comes at 0446 GMT. It is introduced by MK Yosef 'Azran, who presents a recorded interview with Chief Sephardic Rabbi 'Ovadya Yosef. Spicing his remarks with Biblical quotes, the latter exhorts voters to support SHAS, hailing the party's deeds in the past four years, such as exulting the legacy of Sephardic Jews and establishing numerous magnificent schools imparting the teachings of the Torah to thousands of children.

Tehiya's advertisement starts at 1035 GMT with a jingle saying that Israel needs a "credible" right wing now to restore security; ensure its rule over Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza; and take care of employment, education, and aliyah. In a recorded passage, Tehiya chairman Prof. Yuval Ne'eman says that "the whole of Eretz Yisra'el belongs to us, although the area east of the Jordan River was taken away from us in 1921. We had no other choice other than to accept this partition to arrive at a compromise with the Arabs of Eretz Yisra'el. A state is there, in the Kingdom of Jordan, awaiting those who call themselves Palestinians—not to mention the fact that the Arabs today have 17 states spreading over a territory 600 times larger than our minuscule territory between the Mediterranean Sea and the Jordan River."

Ne'eman goes on to recall the period from 1948 until the 1967 war during which Israel lived under constant fear of an Arab attack and remarks that thanks to the "strategic depth" attained in the Six-Day War Israel curbed the invasion on the Golan Heights and the Sinai Peninsula in the Yom Kippur War. He notes that Tehiya spearheaded the motion to apply Israeli sovereignty to the Golan Heights and to Jerusalem but that, "to our great misfortune, since 1967, Israeli governments have hesitated to complete the job and impose our sovereignty on Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza District. This sovereignty vacuum has brought upon us political pressures and the war known as the intifadah. Tehiya will strive to complete the implementation of our sovereignty on all parts of the homeland, and each day that passes makes it harder. There are numerous occasions to go about it without provoking massive international opposition. We will take advantage of any option opening up, as we have done with regard to Jerusalem and the Golan Heights, and we will complete the job started at the Tel Aviv Museum [site of the declaration of Israel's independence] in May 1948."

Moledet Launches Radio Election Ads

TA2705130292

[Editorial Report] Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 0431 GMT on 27 May airs another batch of election campaign ads by parties not previously covered.

Moledet's ad starts at 0440 GMT with a jingle saying that "there is only one homeland [moledet]. Vote teth, as in transfer, for the sake of peace." Speaking over the sound of a heartbeat, party leader Rehav'am Ze'evi chastises the government for its complacency and passivity in the face of the killing and butchering of Jews, saying: "Settlers in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza live in terror and serve as targets for the intifadah's thugs, yet the government remains unmoved; our glorious Army is being maimed and castrated, its soldiers and officers subjected to show trials, yet the government remains unmoved."

Speaking over the sound of cannon fire, Ze'evi says: "Although the government remains unmoved, we will move it away. On 23 June we will move the government away; we will move away Likud and Labor, which have failed to eradicate and to eliminate the intifadah. We have demanded in the past, and we reiterate this demand

today, to ban entry into Israel of Arabs from Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza. We do not want them in our midst. The day we close off the territories and ban the entry into Israel of Arabs from Judaea, Samaria and Gaza, we will gain more security." The day that happens, Ze'evi asserts, jobs will become available to veteran soldiers, immigrants, and long-time Israelis who are currently unemployed. "When the Arabs stop finding employment in Israel, they will go to the Arab countries to make a living; they will immigrate to those countries and stay there. If we fail to make such a move, the intifadah will escalate and defeat us. They will then demand the Galilee and the Negev, Tiberias and Zefat, Haifa and 'Akko, Ashdod and Ashqelon." Ze'evi ends his message by saying: "We demand the closure of Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza; we demand that Arabs from those areas not be allowed to enter Israel to snatch away our jobs and to bring with them bereavement and destruction."

Yahadut Hatora Launches Radio Election Ads

TA2805111092

[Editorial Report] Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 0431 GMT on 28 May airs another series of election campaign ads by parties not previously covered.

Yahadut Hatora's ad comes on the air at 0438 GMT and is presented by Rabbi Avraham Yosef Shapira, the party leader. Coloring his address with Biblical quotes, he says "this is a glorious day, when all Torah-observing Jews appear as one group in the Knesset elections," with the blessing of the highest Torah scholars. Rabbi Shapira nevertheless notes that "these good tidings are marred by deep sorrow" due to the death of two innocent Jews, who were murdered "only because they were Jews. Only profound faith in Judaism, in the Torah, and in God Almighty will help us get through the ordeals and anguish we must undergo to be deserving of the Land of Israel. This is what Yahadut Hatora is setting out to do: to restore the spirit of Judaism to the Israeli people."

Moledet, Tehiya Sign Votes Agreement

TA2605053192 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0400 GMT 26 May 92

[Text] Moledet and Tehiya have signed an agreement for sharing excess votes in the upcoming elections. The agreement was signed in Tel Aviv.

Meretz Urges Islamic Movement To Vote

TA2705113792 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 27 May 92 p A4

[Report by Gabi Zohar]

[Text] Some three weeks ago, Meretz members held contacts with the heads of the Islamic Movement in Umm-al-Fahm, urging them to encourage Israel's Arabs to vote in the coming elections. Najib Abu-Raqiyyah, No. 14 on the Meretz list, conducted the contacts, and according to him the heads of the Islamic Movement responded favorably.

Speaking at a news conference in Haifa yesterday, Knesset Member Dedi Zucker; Walid Sadiq, who is 9th on the Meretz list; and 'Amiram Efrati, who coordinates the Meretz campaign headquarters, confirmed the contacts, stating that the Islamic Movement leaders have not yet decided which party they would prefer in the coming elections. Meretz will launch its election campaign with the Arab sector in a big rally in Shefar'am on Saturday.

Zucker also said that if a unity government is formed after the elections, Meretz will not be a part of it. He believes that Meretz will not fall apart if it fails to join the coalition: "This is not a list for elections purposes. The parties of which it is made intend to establish a progressive and broad front—not one just for the election campaign." The spokesmen said yesterday that Meretz supports the right of return of both the new immigrants and the Palestinian refugees. Speaking at meetings in homes in the Arab sector, the Meretz activists explained the significance of aliyah, while stressing that discrimination must be eliminated.

Meretz is currently preparing its platform in Arabic, claiming that they are not hiding anything and that the delay is purely technical. Walid Sadiq, one of the founders of the Progressive List for Peace [PLP] who has now joined Meretz, expressed his fear that both Arab lists would fail in the elections. He stressed, however, that despite the difficulty in participating in a Jewish-Arab party, the PLP's and the Arab Democratic Party's platforms mention no opposition to the State of Israel, Zionism, or aliyah.

Committee Rejects KAKH, Endorses Moledet

TA2805202392 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1900 GMT 28 May 92

[Text] The KAKH list has been disqualified from taking part in the elections. Twenty-two members of the Central Elections Committee supported the disqualification, eight were opposed, and six members abstained. Our correspondent Gil Litman reports that some of the Likud representatives voted in favor of the disqualification while others abstained.

Former Judge Avraham Halima, who is the chairman of the committee, voted to disqualify the list. The committee ruled that KAKH had violated the clauses that ban the negation of Israel's democratic character and that forbid racist incitement. KAKH representatives told our correspondent that the entire vote was a sham and the result had been known in advance. They intend to appeal the committee's decision before the High Court of Justice tomorrow morning.

The Central Elections Committee also decided to postpone the debate on whether to disqualify the Kahana Hay movement until after the hearing on the list's

technical failings. Our correspondent report that the Kahana Hay list is short 600 of the 1,500 signatures required by each new list seeking to take part in the elections.

[Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew at 1800 GMT on 28 May reports that "the Central Elections Committee endorsed Moledet's participation in the upcoming elections and rejected the Democratic List for Peace and Equality's demand to disqualify it."]

Arens Asserts 'Full Support' for Undercover Units

TA2805165092 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1600 GMT 28 May 92

[Text] Defense Minister Moshe Arens today met in his office with the commanders of the IDF's [Israel Defense Forces] elite units and of the undercover units in the territories. Arens told the officers that their activity in the territories has the full support of the political echelon and the IDF General Staff.

Arens told the commanders that although we are still feeling the effects of the recent terrorist attacks, it should be noted that the units' operations have brought about a real improvement in the war against terrorism. Our correspondent Yo'av Raviv reported the minister's statements.

Two Soldiers Die of Heat Exposure in Negev

TA2905051292 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0400 GMT 29 May 92

[Text] Two 19-year-old soldiers died yesterday of heat exposure during a training march in the Negev. The two are Yaron Bar-Dor of Jerusalem and 'Eran 'Ofer of 'Afula. They were taken to hospital in a state of dehydration. Military police and a special committee, including an Army doctor, are to conduct inquiries into the accident.

The chief of staff, Lieutenant General Ehud Baraq, said what happened was very serious and there was no reason for it. He promised a thorough investigation.

Violent Incidents in Territories Reported

TA2805135792 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1100 GMT 28 May 92

[Text] An investigation conducted by Samaria District police has revealed that Naja Sakarnah from Qabatiyah may have been killed yesterday by Army gunfire. Our correspondent reports that a van with soldiers came under a hail of stones near Qabatiyah yesterday and that they retaliated with gunfire. Our correspondent learned from the Army spokesman that, in view of the police's findings, the Military Police was also asked to look into the circumstances of the woman's death.

Three inhabitants of Rafah were wounded when a flare fired by soldiers in the area fell into their house. The casualties are a 10-year-old boy, a woman, and a man.

An explosive charge was thrown at an Army patrol in Khan Yunus, but nobody was hurt. Another charge was found nearby.

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 1300 GMT on 28 May reports: "A settler from Bet Hagay was lightly injured by a firebomb in the center of Hebron." The report goes on to say: "The Army imposed a curfew on central Hebron and began searches."]

Al-Husayni 'Demands' Protection

TA2805194092 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 28 May 92

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Speaking at a news conference in Jerusalem, Faysal al-Husayni claimed that residents of Kefar Darom had burned down 35 hothouses and 500 orange trees. He again demanded international protection for the Palestinians in the territories. Faysal al-Husayni reiterated his call to end the killing of collaborators. [passage omitted]

Two Palestinians Detained

TA2805202592 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Arabic 1630 GMT 28 May 92

[Text] The security forces have placed Shaykh 'Abdallah al-Shami, from Gaza, under a six-month administrative detention for engaging in hostile activity on behalf of the Islamic Jihad.

In a related development, Ibrahim al-'Umrani, a member of the higher committee of the political committees in the territories was detained last night.

Soldiers Kill 2 Near Janin

TA2905050292 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0400 GMT 29 May 92

[Text] Soldiers last night shot and killed two armed men in an encounter in the Janin area. The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] spokesman says one of the two aimed his weapon at a patrol, endangering the soldiers' lives. They opened fire, killing the two. They were named as 26-year-old Umm 'Abr-Hasan and Hani Hamad, aged 24.

Two firebombs were thrown last night at security forces in the Tulkarm district. No one was hurt in either incident. One of the bombs was hurled at a patrol passing through the village of Irtah near Tulkarm. The village was placed under curfew. A second bomb was thrown at an Army outpost in the Tulkarm refugee camp. Soldiers at the post fired at the attacker and arrested a suspect. The camp is also under curfew.

Rally Condemns Internecine Killings

TA2305192792 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1815 GMT 23 May 92

[Text] This evening in Gaza, sharp condemnations of the internecine killings of Palestinians, including the elimination of suspected collaborators, were voiced at a rally attended by 3,000 people, including members of the Palestinian delegation. Upon the initiative of a Fatah activist, an eight-point covenant was presented, calling on all organizations to condemn the murders publicly. In a poll taken at the site, a majority of those who attended the rally expressed support for the condemnation of the murders and for a continuation of the peace process. This was reported by our correspondent in the territories Amir Hay.

Abu-Jabir Interviewed on Peace Negotiations

PM2805155692 London AL-HAWADITH in Arabic 29 May 92 pp 30-31

[Interview with Jordanian Foreign Minister Dr. Kamil Abu-Jabir by Usamah 'Ajjaj in Cairo; date not given]

[Excerpts] ['Ajjaj] Large sectors of the Arab people firmly believe that it would be futile to continue with the peace negotiations and proceed with the various rounds because the end result of all that has happened does not justify the original step of joining the negotiations.

[Abu-Jabir] Before answering your question I must emphasize the facts of the Arab-Israeli conflict which, ideologically, is 100 years old. It is rooted in the cultural conflict between the Arab world and the Zionist ideology as an extention of Western thinking. Militarily, the conflict is 40 years old, covering seven or eight wars and a very large number of smaller clashes and confrontations since 1948. Is it reasonable or logical to expect this cultural, ideological, military, political, and informational conflict to be resolved within a matter of weeks or months? The experience of the states involved in negotiations over issues less complex than the Arab-Israeli conflict indicates that it is not an easy matter. [passage omitted]

To sum up my answer I say that even if the past rounds have achieved nothing, the Arab world has lost nothing. In fact, we have made some gains, keeping in mind that everyone is fully aware that there is at present no alternative—and this applies to the Palestinian question, Lebanon, Syria, and Jordan.

['Ajjaj] You have said that participation in the negotiations has achieved some gains for the Arab world. May we know these gains?

[Abu-Jabir] One is that the Arab cause is being addressed as never before since 1948. All the spotlights are on it, exposing Israeli intransigence. Another gain is that, without the peace process, Israel would have secured the loan guarantees from the United States or the West very easily and without any trouble. [passage omitted]

['Ajjaj] There has been so much talk about the idea of a confederation between Palestine and Jordan, to the extent that some people gained the impression that a confederation would be announced the next day, but suddenly all such talk stopped. Do you have an explanation for that?

[Abu-Jabir] My first observation is that the Palestinians and Jordanians have every right to think about their future in view of the close historical, geographical, and demographic links between them, but the question is this: Is this the appropriate time to raise such an issue or not? The answer to that question is this: We are still at the beginning of difficult and arduous negotiations based on international legitimacy and UN resolutions 242 and 338. So perhaps it is premature to discuss that matter now. Yes, it is necessary to prepare for the future, but we have to ask: Would raising the issue of a confederation now be of any advantage? Do we not have enough on our plate with the peace negotiations without adding a new element with unknown prospects and dimensions? We believe it is premature. [passage omitted]

['Ajjaj] How do you view Arab coordination among the four states taking part in the bilateral negotiations?

[Abu-Jabir] Coordination has been good since Madrid and even before. Coordination meetings have been held in Damascus, Beirut, and Amman. [passage omitted]

['Ajjaj] What is the Jordanian position on the Israeli elections? Is there a specific view on these elections or, rather, is there a preference for Labor over the Likud or vice versa?

[Abu-Jabir] The Israeli elections are an Israeli internal affair. They decide what they like. We do not interfere in such matters. All we wish for is a government willing to reach a peaceful solution and to establish a comprehensive, just, and lasting peace based on international legitimacy and on UN resolutions. That is the Jordanian position. It stems from sublime principles. When we say a "just and satisfactory solution" we do mean not merely a truce for this generation but peace acceptable to the future generations, a peace based on Israeli withdrawal from the occupied Palestinian West Bank and other areas, including Jerusalem, the Golan, southern Lebanon, and Jordanian territory. [passage omitted]

['Ajjaj] There are differences of opinion between the Palestinian and Israeli delegations over the autonomy proposals. What is Jordan's view on that?

[Abu-Jabir] What matters is the view of the Palestinians. We cannot impose anything on them. We have maximum coordination with them, but the matter concerns them above all. We are for international legitimacy, however, and for Palestinian self-determination on all their national soil.

['Ajjaj] Has Jordan managed to overcome the negative effects of the crisis resulting from Iraq's invasion of Kuwait, particularly at the level of relations with Washington?

[Abu-Jabir] We always believe and are eager to have good relations with all states of the world. Throughout the past decades, Jordan had special ties with all states. On his latest visit to the United States and some Western states, King Husayn indeed succeeded in eliminating the effects of the Gulf crisis on these relations.

['Ajjaj] But Jordan's relations with such Arab states as the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia are still the same and have not changed.

[Abu-Jabir] Relations could improve, and are actually improving with Egypt and Saudi Arabia, and also with the rest of the Arab states. We want these relations to be special and we are working for their improvement. We believe that we are on the right track toward an improvement.

['Ajjaj] Preparations were made at one stage for a meeting between President Mubarak and King Husayn, but it did not materialize. Are there any reasons for that?

[Abu-Jabir] As far as Jordan is concerned, there is no reason. We are open to such a meeting because we appreciate and respect President Husni Mubarak. King Husayn harbors every respect for him. As to why the meeting has not taken place yet, perhaps the circumstances did not allow it, but I believe the brothers are bound to meet.

['Ajjaj] Jordan has been accused of violating the economic blockade imposed on Iraq. How true is that?

[Abu-Jabir] Like any other state, Jordan abides by international legitimacy and respects its resolutions. It has not violated thse resolutions. When we say that we will abide by something, we do so and we honor our word, whatever our own opinion may be. That does not negate the fact that we feel and are pained by the Iraqi people's sufferings resulting from the blockade. [passage omitted]

Condemns Israeli Attacks on Lebanon

JN2705162092 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic 1520 GMT 27 May 92

[Text] Amman, 27 May (PETRA)—Foreign Minister Dr. Kamil Abu-Jabir has condemned the continued Israeli attacks on southern Lebanon, and called for the immediate halt of these attacks and for Lebanon's sovereignty to be respected. The foreign minister also asked the international community to shoulder its responsibilities toward Lebanon.

In a statement to the JORDANIAN NEWS AGENCY, Dr. Abu-Jabir stressed the need to intensify efforts to force Israel to comply with the resolutions of international legitimacy.

Omani Justice Minister Arrives With Message

JN2705120792 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1100 GMT 27 May 92

[Excerpt] His Eminence Shaykh Hamud Bin-'Abdallah al-Harithi, Omani minister of justice, awqaf, and Islamic affairs, arrived in Amman today on a three-day working visit. During this visit, he will convey a message to His Majesty King Husayn from his brother His Majesty Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id of Oman. His eminence will also hold talks with a number of senior officials on ways to bolster relations between the two sisterly countries, particularly in the field of awqaf. [passage omitted]

Prime Minister Receives Omani Envoy

JN2705165592 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 27 May 92

[Text] Prime Minister al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir received Shaykh Hamud Bin-'Abdallah al-Harithi, Omani minister of justice, awqaf, and Islamic affairs, in his office at the Prime Ministry this evening in the presence of His Eminence Shaykh 'Izz-al-Din al-Khatib al-Tamimi, minister of awqaf and Islamic affairs.

At the beginning of the meeting, his excellency the prime minister welcomed Shaykh al-Harithi and was briefed by both ministers on what they expect to achieve from their talks aimed at strengthening and developing cooperation between Jordan and the Sultanate of Oman. The prime minister was told that the talks will place particular emphasis on the exchange of expertise in Islamic and cultural affairs to continue the policy drawn up by both their Majesties King Husayn and Sultan Qabus.

The guest minister admired the accomplishments he has seen since his arrival in Amman. He expressed his wishes for Jordan's continued progress and prosperity in all areas.

Members of the delegation accompanying the guest minister, the secretary general of the ministry of awqaf and Islamic affairs, and the Omani ambassador in Amman attended the meeting.

Omani Envoy Recieved by King Husayn

JN2805163192 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 28 May 92

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn received at al-Nadwah Palace this afternoon Shaykh Hamud Bin-'Abdallah al-Harithi, Omani minister of justice, awqaf, and Islamic affairs, who conveyed to his majesty the greetings of his brother His Majesty Sultan Qabus of Oman. His majesty asked Shaykh al-Harithi to convey his greetings to His Majesty Sultan Qabus.

At the meeting, talks dealt with bilateral coordination and cooperation in various Islamic and Arab fields, and consolidating and entrenching links of cooperation between the two sisterly states.

The meeting was attended by His Eminence Shaykh 'Izz-al-Din al-Khatib al-Tamimi, minister of awqaf and Islamic affairs, and the Omani ambassador to Jordan.

Australian Minister Makes Predeparture Statement

JN2205195792 Amman Jordan Television Network in English 1900 GMT 22 May 92

[Text] Australia's Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade Gareth Evans concluded a two-day visit to Jordan and left for Damascus this morning.

During his stay, the Australian minister held talks with his royal highness the crown prince and the Foreign Minister Kamil Abu-Jabir dealing with the peace process in the Middle East and bilateral relations between Australia and Jordan.

The Australian minister told the "News at Ten" that his country could possibly become involved in the arms control meetings part of the Middle East multilateral talks.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified reporter] Can you say that your visit now indicates that Australia is willing to get involved even more in the Arab-Israeli talks?

[Evans] Well, we've been talking about possibly becoming involved in the arms control and disarmament side of the talks, because Australia has been very active in pursuing chemical weapons' banning and nuclear nonproliferation. We are a major country on those issues. I think it's also the case that as a country with a longstanding relationship and friendship with Israel, maybe our voice can be heard if we make statements and make our position clear that we really think that the peace process needs acceleration. [end recording]

Cabinet Extends Recognition to Afghanistan

JN2705073692 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 27 May 92 p 1

[Text] Amman (Petra)—The Cabinet held a meeting Tuesday under the chairmanship of Prime Minister al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir. The cabinet heard a briefing by Foreign Minister Kamil Abu-Jabir on the outcome of the recent Non-Aligned Movement meeting held in Jakarta. Industry and Trade Minister 'Abdullah al-Nusur briefed the cabinet on an economic Jordanian delegations talks in the Netherlands. The Cabinet decided to recognise the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan.

Al-Sulh Delivers Government Policy Statement

NC2805124892 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1057 GMT 28 May 92

[Government policy statement read by Prime Minister Rashid al-Sulh to the Chamber of Deputies in Beirut on 28 May—recorded]

[Text] Mr. Speaker, Honorable Deputies: The very difficult situation facing us—the people, chamber, and government—is mostly the outcome of the financial and economic crisis. It is the painful reality gripping every home and every citizen. It is useless to ask if this has taken us by surprise or if it is the outcome of mistakes, which have accumulated and exploded. It is also useless to preoccupy ourselves with searching for those who erred and were responsible. We must now fend off catastrophe; later, every accusation will be investigated and the accused will be called to account.

We must face our fate with the realism and courage for which we are known, relying on rules and facts we believe in and according to which we act.

The crisis concerns everyone—we who are meeting in this hall and the Lebanese people, in all their factions and groups. We must gather our energy and resources, each according to his capability and speciality.

We are not facing a deadly catastrophe or a desperate, case and we are not suffering an incurable disease. We must not despair, surrender, or panic and we must not spread despair and panic, because that would be suicide—to which only cowards resort.

If we return to our senses and look at things cautiously, with reason and wisdom, we find that we are in a position to be optimistic and to find the course to salvation.

A firm rule in the science of finance and economy is that the state treasury lies in its nationals' pockets. If that is so, we should not listen to the claims of the pessimists and prevaricators, who say the state is on the verge of bankruptcy and collapse. International establishments say that Lebanese assets and deposits in foreign and Lebanese banks are enough to gladden hearts and to revive hopes.

None of us intends taking individuals' money to fill the state treasury. We should do something that is better, more useful, and longer lasting. We will work to restore consensus, cooperation, and mutual trust between the state treasury and its citizens.

While the citizen expects certain rights from the state, the state also has rights and debts owed it by the citizens, whose persistence in ignoring this and evading their duties will only bring them and the state loss and destruction. There is no need to prove this, because the reality provides the most conclusive evidence.

The primary task of any government is to resort to the constitutional tools and laws to rectify the imbalance in the mechanism that regulates the relationship between the state treasury and its citizens' pockets. The more this is regulated, the happier the society living under a strong and fair state.

Appreciating the gravity of this situation, we have entitled the first part The Financial and Economic Policy. This government will give priority to the financial and economic policy in view of its profound effect on the national economy and its future. A successful economy is the first guarantee for the national currency; any other takes second place. We must not belittle the resources and capacities on which the Lebanese financial and economic infrastructure is based. This infrastructure is basically sound and strong and will remain so if it is used soundly, rejuvenating our economy. All this is backed by the Lebanese people's capabilities, which have always enabled them to beat any setbacks and rebuild.

The first task facing us in the financial sphere is the problem of the escalating budget deficit and the increase in public debts, which are accumulating daily because of loans and interest. This is harming the Lebanese pound, particularly if we remember that we are a people who import and consume and are accustomed to a standard of living higher than that of developing societies.

A policy of austerity in public and even private expenditure must be followed; we must do so by giving priority to essential expenditure and by not spending on that which is unproductive or not urgent, then limit the productive expenditure to whatever the state budget allows. We must set a ceiling for public sector expenditure and a minimum for the volume of borrowing from the Lebanese Central Bank.

We will also be working to activate the organizations that specialize in collecting revenues and duties and to develop the tax system while maintaining its economic role so that it does not conflict with reconstruction's requirements.

We will work legitimately, scientifically, and sincerely to encourage capital and so create the appropriate environment for getting a fair return. By that, we mean facilitating transportation and communication, establishing security and stability by all available means, imposing the authority of law in the street and courts, and collecting fair duties and taxes. We all know about the Lebanese people's efficiency, energy, and honesty, which companies and corporations missed when they left us and tried other countries.

This will create job opportunities for our youth at home and for those who are temporarily abroad. National income will increase, and social conditions will improve.

There is no need to recall that production creates prosperity and wealth and that capital, manpower, and creative and clever brains create production.

Strictly controlled and effective means must be adopted to increase revenues and to restore the balance, including, for example:

1. Collecting taxes and duties levied on land and building sales, on change of companies' ownership, customs duties, and building law violations. It also includes controlling assessments and collecting electricity and telephone bills, which must be carried out to ensure the state's interests and to ensure a better guarantee for those of the people. That way, we will not be forced to see if it would be better to adopt the policy of privatization [last word in French] within the context of conditions that are not beyond state control.

It is also useful to revive the regulation on life insurance companies investing half their deposits in Lebanon in a way that ensures their value, which our free economy allows. Such a measure will affect the balance of payments; it is not something to be sneered at. Companies are getting this money in Lebanon and from Lebanese production. Major countries, with healthy and very advanced economies, require this money to be deposited at low interest rates in banks that hand out long term loans and mortgages.

Gentlemen, we will control the ports and prevent smuggling by every available means. We will reactivate and reoperate the tobacco authority and Lebanon's casino. We will reexamine public property rental, especially seaside property. We will work with the chamber to enact the rent law. This will encourage free contracting and give a head start to construction and building in the country. The housing crisis will be eased, and revenues and taxes will come in line with rents. The Treasury will benefit enormously. The municipalities will stop seeking huge Finance Ministry credits to pay salaries.

We will reexamine public establishments, the functions of which overlap and which are sometimes identical. We will merge such establishments. We will earnestly follow and keep reminding the fraternal Arab states and other friendly states of their official promises of aid to help reconstruct Lebanon. We believe the brothers and friends will make good their promises.

The government is determined to strengthen banking and to maintain the secrecy of bank accounts. It will develop legislation to encourage capital and to create the right financial atmosphere, reoperating the Beirut Stock Exchange and reactivating the financial market so that Lebanon will resume its place as a prominent regional financial center.

2. Administrative reform: There is no argument that administration in its current form needs to be reexamined—be it to streamline legislation or to choose personnel. Comprehensive administration reform must be achieved.

The laws and bills we will submit to you will enable us to take the necessary measures to reactivate administration and give it qualified personnel. Applying these measures will gradually restore balance to the general budget. Inflation will fall, the national currency's value will rise, and the cost of living will decrease.

Our foreign debt is not huge; we can cope with it more easily than other countries with similar debts, even those that enjoy a healthy economy. This could be the right time to invest the state's accrued debts [dhimmah mustahaqqah] in Lebanese currency, because a rising interest rate helps to bolster the Lebanese pound. When the economy is restored to normality, there will be an opportunity to use finances; interest rates will drop, and public debts will begin to fall.

After addressing this issue—which we consider our priority task—we can revert to the other issues that our people consider very important and about which they are concerned.

Implementing this economic and financial policy, the government will consider the urgent social repercussions to protect the working class, stress the need for balanced development in various sectors and regions, and motivate industrial and agricultural production. It will also work hard to improve facilities, such as public health, communications, transportation, housing, public works, water, electricity, and others. We cannot forget the efforts started by the government to implement a comprehensive plan for economic growth through its institutions, cooperating with respected institutes and studies, accepted by international funding institutions.

Funding opportunities for this plan have reached an advanced stage, especially with the EC, the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, and the Arab and Kuwaiti Funds. The government is determined to speed up the plan's construction projects for the capital's center and for organizing Beirut's suburbs and entrances, as well as all other regions destroyed by military operations.

Mr. President, Honorable Deputies: In the south, while the government vehemently condemns the continuing Israeli occupation of a cherished part of Lebanese territory and the repeated aggression against our defenseless people, we will work on liberating all Lebanese territory from this occupation. We will continue to demand the implementation of Resolutions 425 and 426. The government will also work on spreading the state authority throughout its territory with its own forces. It will also finalize Army deployment up to the internationally recognized borders. The government adheres to recognized Lebanese principles and to the right of Lebanon—its government and people—to confront the occupation and to work on liberating its land by all means, based on the UN Charter and human rights.

Cooperating with the Arab brothers, we will work to confront Israeli belligerence, which is stalling and refusing to implement UN resolutions, especially Resolutions 242 and 338, and the need for giving the Palestinian people their legitimate rights. Again we declare what the Lebanese people have stressed: Whatever the

situation, the government will not accept any Palestinian resettlement on Lebanese territory.

Third [as heard], parliamentary elections: In an effort to bolster democracy and entrench the parliamentary system, of which we are proud and about which we care; in an attempt to speed up steps toward eliminating political sectarianism; and confirming and authenticating what was stipulated in the national reconciliation document, the government announces to you, Honorable Chamber, that it will be ready to hold elections in the summer of 1992. It will present the necessary draft laws for this step. The latest constitutional amendment has placed fixing the date for elections in the hands of your esteemed Chamber.

Fourth, the refugees: The return of every refugee to his home and property is the basis of any national unity. It is the spirit that gives the National Charter its meaning. Our government, cooperating with your esteemed Chamber, while awaiting the political and religious leaderships' much-appreciated efforts, will do its best in the hope that we can all share this great happiness, regardless of the efforts and sacrifices we must make.

Fifth, Lebanese-Syrian relations: The government affirms its honest determination to continue implementing the articles of the treaty that organized the distinguished fraternal relations between the two brotherly countries of Lebanon and Syria. We are cooperating together with a spirit of solidarity and concern about everything that is in the interest of both countries within their independence and sovereignty.

Sixth, the law on nationality: Committed to the national reconciliation charter—and keen to implement it—the government will present your honorable Chamber with a draft law about nationality.

Seventh, the media: The government is determined to strengthen official media and order all other media—according to the law and in line with responsible freedom—to satisfy the reconciliation trend and serve the homeland's greater interest.

Mr. President, Honorable Deputies, we address you and the people whom you represent and who can hear us everywhere. We tell you we cannot accept alarm and depression. We are well known for our intelligence, courage, and hopes for long-term goals. Making these claims and in view of what we have repeatedly confirmed—we were the doctors to the near and far—we will not accept failure in dealing with the situation. We are not claiming it is easy, but it is certainly not impossible. To whom should we resort, where will we find the medication, and who will rush to our aid, carry our burden, and solve our problems when people are occupied with their own worries? There is no life with despair, and there is certainly no despair in life.

Honorable Deputies, this is our statement. We depend on your valuable confidence and on God's support for us to implement its contents and confront any problems. We thank you.

Further on Reaction to Israeli Attacks in South

UN Envoy Lodges Complaint

NC2805164992 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1530 GMT 28 May 92

[Text] Lebanon lodged an official complaint with the UN Security Council president, who will inform all Council members of the complaint about the current Israeli aggression. Ambassador Khalil Makkawi—Lebanon's permanent representative to the United Nations—submitted the complaint.

Envoy Stresses 'Right To Resist'

NC2905094592 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0800 GMT 29 May 92

[Text] Ambassador Khalil Makkawi—permanent Lebanese delegate to the United Nations—stressed the right to resistance and expressed surprise at the demand to halt it.

In a message he handed to UN Secretary General Butrus Ghali yesterday, Ambassador Shammas [head of the Lebanese delegation to the negotiations with Israel] asked why Israel does not withdraw from southern Lebanon—in accordance with Resolution 425—and give the Lebanese Army the chance to deploy with the UN Interim Force in Lebanon in the south.

Government Condemns Attacks

NC2905071992 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0530 GMT 29 May 92

[Text] In a message to the UN secretary general and distributed to UN member states, Lebanon condemned the recent Israeli air raids on its territory and urged the UN Security Council member states to take a decisive position about Israel's military practices.

The message—presented by Lebanese UN delegate Ambassador Khalil Makkawi—stated that Israeli helicopters, escorted by warplanes, attacked the home of Lebanese citizen al-Haj Yasir Mansur in the Jibshit area last Monday, killing him, his wife, and his three children. The message stated that the planes also fired several missiles, seriously damaging property.

In the message, Makkawi told UN Secretary General Butrus Ghali that Monday also saw Israeli Air Force planes launch unbelievable attacks on Tyre, Iqlim al-Tuffah, and western al-Biqa'. The message stated that the day before, Sunday, Israeli forces shelled other villages, forcing many inhabitants to flee to safer areas. The message added: This recent escalation of Israeli action was accompanied by statements by the Israeli

prime minister, defense minister, and foreign minister, threatening further aggression against Lebanon.

Makkawi's message stated that the Lebanese Government strongly denounces the continuing premeditated acts of aggression against the Lebanese citizens and draws the international community's attention to the danger inherent in Israel's policy of disregarding the UN Charter and international law.

The message stated: Lebanon calls on the UN Security Council member states to adopt a resolute position about Israel's military practices, which endanger regional and world peace and security.

Lebanon reaffirmed the need to implement the UN Security Council resolution issued in 1978 and called for the Israeli forces to withdraw from southern Lebanon.

Further Reportage on Israeli Attacks in South

Resistance Operation Broken Up

NC2805163392 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1600 GMT 28 May 92

[Text] Our correspondent in the south reported that movement was observed around midnight last night on the ridges of Majdal Zun township. The South Lebanese Army [SLA] fired two shells, and one of its patrols went to the site in the morning to investigate. The patrol found two M-16 rifles, one Kalashnikov rifle, clothes, explosives, and blood spots. It is believed that an operation targeting al-Bayyadah was broken up.

Our correspondent also reports that the Kafr Yatar ridges are currently coming under concentrated and violent artillery shelling. The SLA is observing extreme caution in its movements, and the situation is tense.

Resistance on 'Maximum' Alert

NC2805180092 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1615 GMT 28 May 92

[Excerpts] The latest news about the south is a report that last night the South Lebanese Army [SLA] foiled an operation aimed against an SLA post in al-Bayyadah.

Latest reports indicate that Yatar is coming under violent artillery bombardment. This afternoon, Majdal Zun came under Israeli heavy-caliber artillery shelling from Israeli positions at the Tayr Harfa-(al-Julayyil)-Shama' Triangle. Al-Hamra Farm and (?Buyut al-Sayyid) were also subjected to heavy-caliber machine gunfire. [passage omitted]

A Hizballah group attacked an SLA post in Tayr Harfa in the security strip last night. Two Hizballah members were wounded in the attack.

Security sources say that the resistance is on maximum alert, in anticiaption of potential air raids. [passage omitted]

Staff Brigadier General Riyad Taqiy-al-Din, Lebanese Army chief of staff-designate, toured Lebanese Army positions in Western al-Biqa' today, inspecting advanced military positions and centers in [place name indistnct], 'Aytanit, and al-Qir'awn.

PFLP-GC Source Cited on Attack

JN2805195692 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1630 GMT 28 May 92

[Text] Beirut Voice of the Mountain, Voice of the People, and Voice of the Homeland in Lebanon quoted a responsible source within the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command [PFLP-GC] as saying: Out of faith that armed struggle is the only way to liberate Palestine and the only language understood by the Zionist enemy, one of our groups carried out a daring and heroic operation against a Zionist enemy convoy in the Arnun area near Qal'at al-Shaqif, in cooperation with comrades from the Syrian Social Nationalist Party—the Higher Council. The clash between our combatants and the enemy soldiers lasted more than two hours. The enemy brought in huge troop reinforcements. Furthermore, warplanes and helicopter gunships flew over the area to drop flares to search for the group that conducted the operation and to recover its losses from the battleground.

The enemy admitted that an officer was killed and that three of its soldiers were wounded. It also acknowledged that one tank and one personnel carrier were destroyed in the operation. But the enemy losses were more than this, since our comrades showed valor in the confrontation.

The responsible source within the PFLP-GC added: This daringly heroic operation was carried out at a time when some forces are showing a willingness to submit to U.S.-Zionist conditions and dictates by participating in the reconciliation talks, deluding themselves into believing that such talks will produce anything. This operation came to reconfirm the strongly militant ties existing between the heroes of the Lebanese nationalist and Islamic resistance, on the one hand, and those of Palestinian resistance on the other, which are aimed at liberating occupied southern Lebanon. Besides, this operation came to show support for the intifadah being staged by our kinfolk in the occupied territories.

The practical response to U.S.-Zionist arrogance is attainable when all Lebanese, Palestinian, pan-Arab, and Islamic powers are unified. These powers should demonstrate a strength that is commensurate with the challenges and dangers posed to the masses of our Lebanese and Palestinian peoples, as well as the masses of our Arab and Islamic peoples. It is a revolution until the liberation of land and man.

SLA Position Attacked by Missiles

NC2905061592 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0445 GMT 29 May 92

[Text] Security in the south was in trouble again yesterday. AFP cited security sources in Sidon, reporting

that a South Lebanese Army [SLA] location in 'Alman was being attacked by missiles last night. The agency reported that SLA artillery responded by shelling al-Nabatiyah but did not report any victims.

Earlier, Israeli helicopters raided Yatar—coinciding with violent shelling of the town and its suburbs—and injured five people.

AP said Israeli helicopters last night raided positions occupied by armed men north of the security strip. The agency cited security sources, reporting that two Israeli Cobra helicopters launched four missiles in the direction of Yatar. AP reported that the attack came after the Israeli artillery shelled the towns of Kafra and Yatar. The agency also cited an Israeli Army spokesman denying that Israeli Air Force planes raided any targets.

Later, AFP cited Lebanese security sources saying five men were wounded in the shelling of Yatar and its environs.

Hizballah: Infiltration Attempt Foiled

NC2905064592 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0530 GMT 29 May 92

[Text] Hizballah's central information unit released the following about the new resistance activities: At 1515 yesterday, the Islamic resistance confronted an aggressive force of approximately [word indistinct], which attempted to infiltrate the area between Majdal Zun and Tayr Harfa. Clashes ensued between the mujahidin and the infiltrating force—the mujahidin forcing it to withdraw and injuring many of the attacking enemy.

Last night, the resistance conducted a missile attack targeting the agents' positions in 'Alman. Numerous rockets hit the target, killing and injuring many.

According to information from the south, an armored Zionist force backed by helicopters tried to infiltrate the Kafra, Yatar line at around 2130 yesterday and clashed with the resistance. At the time, occupation artillery on the Rshaf hills shelled the towns of Zibqin, Yatar, Haris, Majdal Zun, and the Kafra environs.

Israeli helicopters conducted simultaneous raking operations.

Sources Following Acts 'With Concern'

NC2905091092 (Clandestine) Voice of the South in Arabic to Lebanon 0730 GMT 29 May 92

[Text] One saboteur was killed and another wounded in a clash between a South Lebanese Army [SLA] patrol and a group of saboteurs that tried to infiltrate the border area near the town of Majdal Zun in the west two days ago. Three other saboteurs—from the Syrian Social Nationalist Party's [SSNP] Dawud Baz wing and from the George Habash-led Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP]—were killed in a clash with an Israeli patrol in the area of Qal'at al-Shaqif [Beufort Castle] last night. One Israeli soldier was killed and two were wounded in the clash.

Citing security sources, REUTER reported that Hizballah is transporting men and material to reinforce its positions opposite the border area.

Meanwhile, AP reported two Israeli Cobra helicopters raiding the village of Yatar at 1930 last night. An Israeli military spokesman dismissed this report as untrue.

News agencies and radios confirmed a report that five people were wounded when Kafra, Yatar, Haddathah, and Sribbin were shelled in response to yesterday's infiltration attempt near the town of Majdalzun in the west, in which one Hizballah saboteur was killed and another wounded, and in retaliation for the ambush on an Israeli patrol near Qal'at al-Shaqif.

Official sources commented about the operation in Arnun two days ago, saying they are following with concern the escalating subversive acts emanating from the area, where the Lebanese Army's 3d Brigade is deployed in al-Nabatiyah. The sources indicated that scores of Hizballah men who attacked the SLA position in al-Shumariyah were wearing Lebanese Army uniforms and had crossed the Army positions freely. No one objected when they returned with their SLA captives.

Security sources stated that the Lebanese Army did not take firm action against the SSNP and Ahmad Jibril's PFLP cells, which have long been gathering intelligence on the SLA movements, carrying permits bearing the signature of Ghazi Kan'an, [chief of Syrian military intelligence in Lebanon] and getting help from collaborators in Arnun.

Security sources interviewed by our military correspondent said that the new situation in the area requires the Lebanese Army's 3d Brigade to ensure Lebanese Army control of the areas in which it has deployed and to prevent any terrorist activity in these areas.

Abu-'Adnan—a member of the PFLP's political bureau, General Command—held a news conference yesterday, when he spoke about a subversive operation in the Arnun area two days ago. He said armed struggle is the only way to liberation, adding that, according to him, the operations will escalate on all fronts, including inside occupied Palestine. He called on nationalist and Islamic forces in the area to unite and consolidate what he termed the Lebanese- Palestinian-Syrian steadfastness. He said resistance will not stop until Zionism is removed from the area.

German Hostages Issue 'Moving Toward Solution'

NC2805131492 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1115 GMT 29 May 92

[Text] The issue of the two German hostages is moving toward a solution. Practical results will appear in the coming two weeks.

According to an exclusive report made available to us, local and external contacts have resulted in an acceptable understanding that would resolve this issue if no unexpected obstacles appear.

Afghanistan

'No' Arrests, Tortures, Executions Carried Out

LD2805182792 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 28 May 92

[Statement by the Press Center of the Foreign Ministry of the Islamic State of Afghanistan]

[Text] The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic State of Afghanistan announces that the state respects all the requests and demands made by Amnesty International and has given it a positive response. The cases which have been referred to recently by this organization are mostly acts of violence which are being carried out by individual armed groups and are contrary to the policy of the Islamic State of Afghanistan.

The Islamic State of Afghanistan has declared a general amnesty and is committed to it. Therefore, no arrest, torture or execution has been carried out by the Islamic State of Afghanistan based on political consideration or others.

We strongly condemn any type of intimidation against individuals or society. The Islamic State of Afghanistan fully believe in the human rights and is committed to respect it and protect it. It carries out all type of efforts, as its first responsibility is to ensure the security of the people of Afghanistan. The Islamic State of Afghanistan holds the same view as Amnesty International—being against torture and abuses—and strongly condemns any type of torture and violation of human rights. This is because the people of Afghanistan have been the victims of the torture and abuses of the communist regime; this was one of the important reasons of struggle of this state against the communist regime.

About a report by Amnesty International on throwing hand grenades on the resident Sikhs and Hindus, we should say that we do not have any report on occurrence of such incidents. If such an incident has taken place, we strongly condemn it. For the religious ethnics in Afghanistan as all the people of Afghanistan enjoy all civil rights.

Rabbani, Khales Discuss Peace, Security

LD2805182192 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 28 May 92

[Text] Esteemed Professor Borhanoddin Rabbani, chairman of the Leadership Council of the Islamic State of Afghanistan, today met with Mowlawi Mohammad Yunes Khales, member of the Leadership Council. During the meeting, while esteemed Haji Din Mohammad, deputy head of Hezb-e Eslami, was also present, views were exchanged about matters relating to further [word indistinct], understanding and measures towards the speedy maintenance of peace and security in the country. Other topics of interest were also discussed.

Rabbani Attends Journalists Meeting

LD2805225492 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 28 May 92

[Text] Esteemed Professor Ostad Borhanoddin Rabbani, chairman of the Leadership Council of the Islamic State of Afghanistan, took part this afternoon at a meeting held by journalists of the BIA, Radio-TV and Cinematography, newspapers and periodicals, and other cultural spheres. The meeting was held at the hall of the Union of Journalists.

The BIA correspondent reports that the meeting was opened by a few verses from the Holy Koran recited by Ostad Enayatollah Khalil, and then brother Daneshyar announced the meeting open. Esteemed Mohammad Sediq Chakari spoke about the role of sincerity, truth, and frankness in the work of journalism and the conditions of the Islamic revolution in Afghanistan. He drew the attention of journalists and writers to reflecting the objective realities of the society.

Then brother Sayed Habib Shah Hamed spoke about the aim of today's [word indistinct] of journalists and explained the role of journalists regarding the [word indistinct] of opinion in the current events of the Islamic revolution.

Esteemed Prof. Borhanoddin Rabbani, chairman of the Leadership Council of the Islamic State of Afghanistan, congratulated the participants on [words indistinct] after 14 years of just jehad of our Muslim and faithful people against the plundering role of communism and the former Soviet Union and those installed by them and added: Islam gives special place to devoted writers. Islam never allows the suffocation of thought, opinion, or speech. The religious and professional responsibilities of writers are very great and important.

Esteemed Prof. Borhanoddin Rabbani added that we strongly support writers and the (?freedom) of thought and speech. We expect that writers and journalists, as sincere, sympathetic, and devoted writers, will not spare any effort toward the realization of the aspirations of the persecuted nation.

In conclusion, Farid Shayan, deputy head of the Union of Journalists, spoke on behalf of journalists and promised that the journalists would use all their power to make efforts toward reflecting the realities and to realize the aspirations of the Islamic revolution of Afghanistan.

Issues of the daily [name indistinct] were distributed to participants.

Minister, Libyan Envoy View Bilateral Relations

LD2905100292 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 28 May 92

[Text] Esteemed Engineer Ahmad Shah [acting minister of internal affairs] had a courtesy meeting this morning in his office with 'Ali al-Baruq al-Sharifi, ambassador of the Arab Libyan Jamahiriyah to Kabul. According to a

report by the military section of BAKHTAR Information Agency, in the course of the meeting, esteemed Engineer Ahmad Shah talked to the Libyan ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Libya [title as heard] about the aims of the Islamic State of Afghanistan and about the creation of new relations between both countries.

For his part, the ambassador of that country on behalf of his country expressed his readiness to strengthen friendly relations in various spheres.

Bangladesh

Zia Returns From India, Comments on Visit

BK2905030692 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network in English 1530 GMT 29 May 92

[Text] Prime Minister Khaleda Zia returned home last night, ending her three-day state visit to India. Talking to newsmen at the airport, Begum Zia described her visit as very fruitful and said her talks with Indian Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao would help resolve outstanding bilateral problems.

Replying to questions, the prime minister said the visit has resulted in melting the ice in the relationship and efforts will now follow for resolution of bilateral issues. Begum Zia said the Indian prime minister underlined the need for solving the bilateral disputes to strengthen the neighborliness and expressed the hope that the visit would lead to better ties. The sharing of the waters of the Ganges was discussed during her visit and it was agreed that short and long-term measures would be taken to settle the water problem. Begum Zia emphatically said the link canal scheme did not figure in the discussion since Bangladesh will never accept this proposal.

Repatriation of Chakma refugees from the Indian territory was another major issue discussed during the talks with the Indian prime minister and both sides agreed to set up a committee to expedite the process of return of these refugees to their homeland.

Begum Zia said the trade gap between the two countries was also discussed and Mr. Rao agreed to lift the quota on import of [word indistinct] from Bangladesh. The duty on the item will also be exempted.

About her talks with West Bengal Chief Minister Jyoti Basu during her brief stopover in Calcutta, Begum Zia said Tin Bigha [border corridor] issue and other matters came up for discussion. The Tin Bigha issue was also discussed during a meeting with BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] Leader L.K. Advani in New Delhi. The prime minister said she has told Mr. Advani that he would not oppose the leasing out of the corridor once he visited the area and realized the problems of Bangladesh.

Begum Zia told a questioner that issues like railway transit facility to Bangladesh or the 25-year transit accord with India did not figure in the talks.

Law and Justice Minister Mirza Gholam Hafiz, Foreign Minister Mustafizur Rahman, and Information Minister Nazrul Huda were present during the prime minister's meeting with newsmen.

Joint Communique Issued

BK2805161592 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network in English 1530 GMT 28 May 92

[Text] Bangladesh and India have agreed to evolve equitable long-term and comprehensive arrangements for sharing the flows of the Ganges and other major rivers through mutual discussions. This was stated in a joint communique issued simultaneously in Dhaka and New Delhi today at the end of three-day state visit of Prime Minister Khaleda Zia to India.

The communique said during the visit, the Bangladesh prime minister and her Indian counterpart Narasimha Rao held wide-ranging discussions covering bilateral, regional, and international issues in an atmosphere of friendship, harmony, and cordiality. On the water sharing issue, it said the two leaders noted that due to growing need for water, the flows available in the Ganges and Tista would fall short of the requirements of the two countries, particularly during the lean season. They directed their concerned ministers to make renewed endeavors for achieving an acceptable settlement, including interim arrangements for sharing the dry season flows of the Ganges. Indian Prime Minister Narasimha Rao gave the assurance that every possible effort will be made to avoid undue hardship to Bangladesh by sharing the flows in the Ganges at Farakka on an equitable basis. A ministerial-level meeting will be held for the purpose on an urgent basis, the communique added. It further said that joint monitoring of releases at Farakka and Tista barrage and observations on the flow of the major rivers into Bangladesh will be revived immediately.

On the Chakma refugees issue, the communique said the two prime ministers agreed to arrange their speedy repatriation to Bangladesh in full safety and security. Bangladesh side agreed to set up a representative political-level committee that will encourage the refugees to return, while the Indian side assured full cooperation in the process of repatriation. Both the sides noted with satisfaction the recent exchange of letters regarding the modalities for the implementation of the plan providing for rights of passage for Bangladeshi citizens through Tin Bigha, which will become effective from 26 June.

The two prime ministers expressed their determination to stop the illegal movement of people across the border by all possible means, including the strengthening of existing arrangements and mutual cooperation. The two sides agreed that efforts should be intensified to resolve other outstanding issues emanating from the Bangladesh-India land boundary agreement of 1974, the communique said. The communique further said that it was also agreed to resume discussions on delimitation of the maritime boundary at an early date. However, the

two sides noted the need for discussions in due course concerning the question of South Talpatti Island for an in-depth examination on the basis of all relevant facts and principles.

India

Diplomat Returns to New Delhi From Islamabad

BK2805151692 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1430 GMT 28 May 92

[Text] The senior Indian diplomat, Mr. Rajesh Mittal, who was kidnapped and tortured by Pakistan police on Sunday, was flown to New Delhi today by a special civilian plane. Mr. Mittal, who was in serious condition, was received by the External Affairs Ministry officials. A team of doctors and physiotherapists were on board the plane to attend him while he was being brought back. Mr. Mittal's departure was delayed as Pakistan turned down India's request to allow an Air Force plane to evacuate him on humanitarian grounds.

Commentary Views Relations

BK2905064392 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 29 May 92

[Journalist Om Guota Commentary]

[Text] India-Pakistan relations are once again at a crossroad. This is not the first time when in the 47-year-old checkered history of the subcontinent such a sorry state of affairs exist between these two countries. Despite the persistent interference of Pakistan through a state-sponsored terrorism in Punjab and Kashmir, the dialogue had never stopped. It is not long when the two prime ministers, Mr. Narasimha Rao and Mr. Nawaz Sharif, met at Davos and renewed their commitment for improving bilateral ties. The statesman in Mr. Rao chose to ignore the provocative statement by the Pakistan high commissioner in New Delhi, Mr. Abdul Sattar, over Kashmir. On his return from abroad, Mr. Rao had said that the top-level contact will continue. But what transpired during the last one week is not only unprecedented but undiplomatic, to say the least.

It is not the first time when India or Pakistan decided to declare each other's diplomats persona non grata and send them back home. But never before has a high-ranking diplomat been apprehended and manhandled by the intelligence agencies in such a brutal manner. One could have understood this had Pakistan realized the highhanded manner of its sleuths and expressed regrets even after maltreating and expelling the Indian counselor, Mr. Rajesh Mittal. On the contrary, Pakistan is saying as if nothing had happened. This confirms that the provocative treatment meted to out to Mr. Mittal was part of a well thought-out design. It is not a mere coincidence that the Mittal episode followed Mr Nawaz Sharif's statement apportioning blame on India for the secessionist movement in Sindh. It is ironical, but true, that whenever the internal situation in Pakistan goes out of hand, its leaders try to divert people's attention by blaming India. All the Pakistani leaders have followed this game plan. This is in direct contrast to the restraint shown by India, who despite concrete evidences of Pakistan's hand in terrorist activities in Punjab and Kashmir, has not acted in such a shabby manner. It is sheepish on the part of Pakistan to send back four Indian nationals from Karachi Airpor because they were not carrying the AIDS negative certificate. It is difficult to say how Pakistan will cover the lost ground in its relations with India after these events.

Pakistan should realize that while it takes a great deal of time and effort to mend fences and build trust, one misplaced and misjudged action can snap all the goodwill. People in the subcontinent were touched by the supporting gesture of [Indian cricketer] Sunil Gavaskar when he first went out of his way to praise Pakistan's performance in the World Cup and later accepted the invitation of Pakistan's prime minister to participate in the celebrations. That had proved that there was no shortage of goodwill among individuals on both sides of the border. But, if Pakistan continues to behave in an unbecoming manner as it has done recently, India will have no choice but to retaliate even more forcefully than it has done so far.

After the peaceful solution of the Afghan problem and the changing reality in the whole region following the disintegration of the Soviet Union, it will be in the larger interest of Pakistan to behave in a more responsible manner and resist the temptation of playing to the galleries on the home front at the cost of good neighborly relations with India.

Media Personnel Protest Murder of Radio Engineer

BK2805132492 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 28 May 92

[Text] Mortal remains of M.L. Manchanda, the station engineer of All India Radio [AIR], Patiala, were consigned to flames today at Panipat in Haryana. The pyre was lit by his elder brother, Mr. Nandlal Manchanda. Earlier, many local people visited the house of M.L. Manchanda, to pay homage to the departed soul. They also alleged apathy in various quarters in securing the release of M.L. Manchanda. Most shops and markets were closed in the town as a mark of protest against this gruesome murder by the militants.

Some senior officers of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting today discussed with the representatives of the joint action committee of AIR and Doordarshan [Indian television] associations in context of Mr. Manchanda's murder yesterday. The committee members reiterated their demands, which include an ex gratia payment of 10 lakh rupees to the family of the AIR Patiala station engineer.

Various categories of employees of AIR and Doordarshan in Delhi are in a dharna since this morning to press their demands. Employees of Chandigarh station of AIR

staged a dharna protesting against the murder of Mr. Manchanda. Recording activities of the Bombay station of AIR and Doordarshan were suspended by the engineering staff. In Calcutta, Akashvani [radio] and Doordarshan employees condemned the killing. The AIR station of Patiala has been closed down. The staff members of the AIR Imphal station have condemned the killing of Mr. Manchanda and appealed to the government to provide adequate security to the staff members posted at sensitive and extremist-prone areas.

Further on Protest; Papers Censored

BK2805163992 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 28 May 92

[Excerpts] Work was affected today in several stations of All India Radio [AIR] and Doordarshan [Indian television] in protest against the killing of AIR Patiala station engineer, Mr. M.L. Manchanda. Recording activities of the Bombay station of AIR, including outside broadcasts, were suspended. Doordarshan programs were also suspended. In Bihar, several kendras [stations] off radio and Doordarshan stopped recording activities and observed condolence meetings. The agitated officials demanded adequate security. In Amritsar, security for Doordarshan and radio employees has been beefed up.

An official spokesman said that the AIR team which supervises the relay of Gurvani [Sikh religious hymns] from the Golden Temple complex will be provided with police escort. Security will also be provided at the residences. The recording and administrative work was paralyzed at Jaipur station of AIR.

Employees belonging to various stations of AIR and Doordarshan including that of Assam, Simla and Aurangabad have condemned the brutal killing. Reports of condolence meeting have also come in from Ajmer, Udaipur and Jodhpur stations. Three AIR stations of Punjab—Jullundur, Patiala and Chandigarh—have stopped transmissions today. Transmission of national Hindi bulletin was disrupted a short while ago for nine minutes. Recording activities were also halted in Calcutta AIR station.

The CPI-M [Communist Party of India-Marxist] and CPI have condemned the assassination of Mr. Manchanda. In their separate statements issued in New Delhi today, the parties urged the center to take prompt action to strengthen the administrative machinery to maintain law and order.

The government has announced more compensation to the bereaved family of Mr. M.L. Manchanda, station engineer of AIR, Patiala. The official spokesman told newsmen in New Delhi this evening that representatives of various staff associations of AIR and Doordarshan have been informed of this during their talks today with senior officers of the I and B [Information and Broadcasting] Ministry. The spokesman said a cash compensation of 8 lakh rupees will be given to the family in addition to the normal gratuity and other benefits. Of this, two lakh rupees will come from the Prime Minister's Relief Fund. The I and B Ministry, the Haryana and Punjab governments will be giving two lakh rupees each to the family. One of the children of Mr. Manchanda will be given government employment.

The spokesman said the government has decided that all electronic media installations in Punjab and Jammu and Kashmir will be declared protected areas and the security installations will be handed over to paramilitary forces for the present. He said employees in some of the sensitive places will be provided transport from their residence to the place of work. The spokesman said the I and B and the home ministry will carry out the security review of all media installations in Punjab and Jammu and Kashmir from time to time. On the demand for higher insurance coverage to all employees of the electronic media in sensitive states, he said the matter has been referred to the Finance Ministry. The I and B Ministry will set up a control room at the headquarters to liaise with security agencies in view of the frequent threats to AIR and Doordarshan installations in some states. However, the joint action committee of AIR and Doordarshan staff associations has turned down the government's offer of eight lakh rupees compensation by various governments. In a press release issued this evening, the committee said that the government has not acceded to any of the demands and was using delaying tactics.

When the minister of state for I and B, Mr. Ajit Kumar Panja, was asked by newsmen in New Delhi today that if the staff associations of AIR and Doordarshan stop transmission, would the government declare them as an essential service. He said: We will cross the bridge when we come to it. The minister also clarified that he had not offered to resign over the killing of Mr. Manchanda as demanded by staff associations. [passage omitted]

According to PTI, restricted censorship has been imposed on the press in Punjab and Chandigarh relating to circulation and publication of seditious and antinational matters. Official sources said today that orders have been issued in Punjab and Chandigarh to this effect. Two local dailies came out today with censored reports pertaining to the statement of a militant organization claiming responsibility for the killing of Mr. Manchanda. Copies of several dailies published from Delhi and Jullundur were seized by the Chandigarh administration.

Agni Missile 'Successfully' Launched

BK2905075092 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0730 GMT 29 May 92

[Text] The second test flight of India's intermediate range ballistic missile—Agni—was successfully launched from the interim test range at Chandipur in Orissa this morning. The missile launching took place around 0815 [0345 GMT] under fine weather conditions.

The defense minister, Mr. Sharad Pawar; the Orissa chief minister, Mr. Biju Patnaik; the chiefs of the three armed forces, top defense scientists Dr. Abdul Kalam and Dr. Arunachalam and scientists from the DRDL [Defense Research and Development Laboratory] were present at the time of the blast off. The scientists of the defense research and development organizations described the flight mission as a success soon after the 2,500-km range surface-to-surface missile with two-stage rocket system blasted off into the sky. The 19 meter long 40-ton missile followed the charted course. DRDL sources said the missile was boosted by the indigenously developed augmented satellite launch vehicle. Solid fuel was used for the first stage and liquid fuel for the second and re-entry stages.

The Agni had been successfully test fired from Chandipur three years ago.

Satellite Launched 20 May Becomes Operational

BK2805140092 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 28 May 92

[Text] The Stretched Rohini Satellite Series-C, SROSS-C, became fully operational today. It was launched by the ASLV [Augmented Satellite Launch Vehicle]-D3 on the 20th of this month. The satellite started operating with the successful commissioning of the second payload. It has been designed and developed by ISRO [Indian Space Research Organization] satellite center and would study the celestial gamma ray burst. The satellite will also provide valuable information on piasma depletion and ionosphere anomaly.

Mauritius Official Arrives on 10-Day Visit

BK2705163992 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 27 May 92

[Text] The president [title as received] of Mauritius, Sir Veerasamy Ringadoo, arrived in Bombay this afternoon by a special plane. He was received at the airport by Professor Javed Khan, minister of protocol, government of Maharashtra. The Mauritius president is on a 10-day visit to the country. Mr. Ringadoo is expected to meet the president, the vice president, the prime minister, and the minister of state for external affairs in New Delhi tomorrow. During his stay, he will visit Trivandrum, Bangalore, Mysore, Madras, and Tirupati.

Meets With President

BK2805165192 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 28 May 92

[Text] The Mauritius president, Sir Veerasamy Ringadoo, has said that his country is closely following the liberalized economic policy undertaken by India. During the 30-minute talks marked by warm and cordial atmosphere, Mr. Ringadoo told the president, Mr. R. Venkataraman, that his long association with India has been like a pilgrimage to him. Mr. Venkataraman told the visiting dignitary that India lauds his contrition in strengthening the Indo-Mauritius relations. Earlier, on arrival, Sir Ringadoo was given a ceremonial welcome at Rashtrapati Bhavan [president house].

Indo-U.S. Naval Exercises Begin

BK2805163392 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 28 May 92

[Text] A 24-hour Indo-U.S. naval exercise began in the Arabian Sea off the Cochin coast this afternoon. Two ships each from India and the United States are participating in the exercise. The Indian ships are INS Ranjit and INS Gomati, whereas the USS David R. Ray and USS Vandegrift of the American 7th Fleet are conducting the joint exercise. Briefing newspersons, the official spokesman said in New Delhi that the exercises are simple in nature and will concentrate on interoperability coordination.

Iran

Further on First Consultative Majles Session

Hashemi-Rafsanjani Delivers Address

LD2805103192 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0510 GMT 28 May 92

[President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani address to the first session of the fourth term of the Islamic Consultative Majles—live]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful. Praise be upon God, and peace be upon the Apostle of God and his companions. We are grateful to God that the elections—this important task of the revolution and the state—were held properly; today we are witnessing the first session of the dear deputies, elected by the people, which is a pleasure.

The sad point is that we are starting the first round of the Majles after the demise of the imam. I always compare my own feelings with the feelings of other dear ones in the country, who were very fond of the imam. It is at ceremonies like this, when I miss the imam. [passage omitted].

I wish to thank the people sincerely for their enthusiastic presence at the elections. I am certain that the people's deputies also share my feelings. Perhaps they are feeling even more grateful, because they received the people's vote.

We know that during the last term of the Majles, the people were subjected to a foreign and internal propaganda bombardment, thanks to the situation in our country. There were many factors trying to mislead the people or to weaken their morale. The fact that a report of the Interior Ministry and the statistics confirmed that more people attended the elections this time than any other time before is something of which the people—as a vigilant nation—should be proud.

I, on behalf of my colleagues in the executive department, would like to express my special gratitude. Naturally, in every elections in the world, some lay stress on the weak points and difficulties of the state. The executive system is largely responsible for these difficulties. The people's vote, however, showed that the people trust the executive system and that such propaganda cannot separate the people from what they understand.

I congratulate the ummah and the revolution for the outcome of the work of the elections. One must thank the esteemed Council of Guardians for sticking decisively to what they believed were the right things to do. We expect that in future they will show the same determination and decisiveness in the country's affairs that are related to them.

I would also like to thank the Interior Ministry, for whose work I myself am somewhat responsible. I am happy with its work and the enthusiasm and sincerety its staff demonstrated through the elections period. The Interior Ministry and the interior minister himself tried hard to organize healthy elections acceptable to the people and the leadership. To be fair, the elections were healthy. Of course, one could find some exceptions to the points I mentioned, but in general the task was performed as I mentioned. [passage omitted]

I wish to raise briefly some issues with the esteemed deputies, the dear brothers and sisters. I also wish to raise some positive and useful points in my remarks.

First, my experiences as an individual who has spent about 10 years in the Majles as a deputy and as a speaker should certainly be good, and my ideas could be of practical use to you. Second, as the official in charge of the executive power—the members of which are to some extent knowledgeable about the country's issues and are in charge of the country's affairs—my remarks could be of interest to you. Pursuing them, however, I leave to you.

At present, our situation—the state of the revolution and the world—is such that demands coordination among the officials, authorities, decisionmakers, and the country's powers, as a vital necessity. Anyone who disrupts this coordination, on whatever level, has committed a sin, be they in the executive, legislative, judicial or anywhere else. You yourselves are aware of the state of the world; you are watching the situation and are familiar with what is taking place around your country. The pressure that is currently placed on many Muslims in a number of places—Lebanon, Palestine, Karabakh, Nakhichevan, Kashmir, and many other places. You are aware of their sensitivities toward our system, in particular toward the Islamic Republic of Iran.

The arrogance ascribes all Islamic actions, movements, and this splendor of the Islamic revival—albeit we accept this honor—to us. They put us under pressure, treating us as guilty. There are many other subtleties involved that remain hidden from the eyes of our people and officials and which we have no intention of mangnifying.

This is our situation, and it warrants assistance from everyone. The intentions are certainly hostile, even though sometimes some people may assume themselves innocent, which is something they have to answer for to God. After all, we believe in the Book, the hereafter, and divine retribution, and we know that God does not miss anything. Thus, not being the slightest bit worried, we do not rush to attain our rights at the cost of harming the people and the revolution; this is my first piece of advice.

In no elections around the world are the two sides ever content, and in effect this applies to all arbitrations. One side always feels deprived. Now, especially when the votes are very close and there are many misgivings, there is no solution other than cooperation once the arbitration is over and the last word has been spoken. But if this is continued, then this contentious situation would never end, which means perpetual discord.

I invite many of the deputies who are no longer in the Majles—most of whom were my sincere colleagues for very many years—to cooperate with the executive and the judicial branch, in the many jobs that exist in the country at present, to come and work hard and endeavor. In the Islamic revolution... [changes thought] In the Islamic Republic, whoever works... [changes thought] Even a porter in a company who works with goodwill, will reap the same reward as if he had been at the helm. We should also do likewise, otherwise we would be liars, and we must not lie. Therefore we must all work in unison. Cooperation between the Majles, the government, the judicial branch and the other relevant foundations and organizations must all revolve around the law. No organization should seek more than its rightful share.

Naturally we will have differences over our interpretations, but if we look at the generalities of the case, with our soul being content with this coordination and cooperation—and we are endowed with such a just and wise leader, who if necessary will arbitrate, but we hope it will never come to that—then by employing sufficient wisdom we will resolve the issues ourselves, without disturbing his excellency. This as our axis should be accepted by all.

The gentlemen, the honorable deputies read the Constitution; they know their regulation and the country's laws. In all their dealings they should bear in mind those laws; the government, too, should treat the Majles in accordance with the same rights, in its actions and responsibilities, which is possible, indeed possible. There has never been, nor should there ever be any qualms. In such a climate, criticisms could be very useful; that is to say, sincere criticism from friends could be appreciated, and the person involved could benefit from it, hence correcting his fault. You are aware of the constructiveness of critisism when made in amicable atmospheres.

But when one chooses to present the issues with an incriminating and revengefull attitude, using an open tribune, then naturally it would have detrimental effects;

it would be exploited by others, and it could perhaps cause irrational reactions, which could be a disadvantage to all of us.

What I demand of my colleagues in the government is to inform the representatives of the people fully of the issues that are related to their work. The Majles deputies must be fully informed; otherwise if there is doubt in their mind, then it would reflect in their statements and in their votes. [passage omitted]

The government's legal requirements will be submitted in the form of bills. And if the representatives feel that there is a legislative vacuum, they can then submit a private member's bill. Such bills would have richer contents if the representatives are legal informed. For their part, the deputies can ask the government for expert advice.

Our main task during the present period—of course we have many more important tasks—is the amendment to the first [as heard]; there are provisions for amending it that must come within the last two years or so of the plan's duration. So, you, the representatives, please begin to study the plan as of now. If you see amendments must be made, discuss them with the plan organization and the specialized committees.

The second plan is very important. We in the government have started to prepare the preliminaries. Here we must definitely cooperate with you, representatives. We must draw up the second plan with due regard to realities, which we saw with our own eyes in the course of the first plan. Of course, that was our first plan, and we were inexperienced when it was drafted; but we are happy with it. But in any case, the second plan can have a richer content.

If we consider the two plans as priorities, we have a great task during our first and second years. We must work together to find a more correct way. During the third Majles, there were many debates in which some clauses of the first plan were criticized. The gentlement can study them. If need be, we will accept amendments. That is our main task. Of course, we have our daily work to do together, which I hope we will do in close cooperation and the spirit of harmony, so much so that our people may feel that the decisionmakers are friends. [passage omitted]

I believe that the importance of the Majles does not stem from fiery and hostile speeches. These prove nothing. We must not think that our people can be influenced by slogans and superficial statements, even though for a moment they may like such things. That is not so; experience has proved that point, of which the latest proof was this present election. Please take care to turn this platform into a teacher and a guide for the people. Debates must be profound. You will have the necessary information to have profound debates. This platform, which can be heard overseas, must have as few errors as possible; indeed it must have no errors if possible.

For example, suppose the Majles itself enacts something on its own, and binds the executive power to implement it. Then, using this very platform, the Majles constantly points out the consequences of that bill as weak points of the executive organs. That amounts to an unjustifiable move, and the people will recognize it as such.

[passage omitted] We have many points to raise. If you read the plan document you will see that we are bound to bridge the budget deficit by a certain date. To do away with the budget deficit means that we must create income, which means the government must find sources of income on a legal basis, meaning the price of something must rise. Or else you tend us to eliminate the subsidies by a certain date. Well, if whenever an economic mistake or one commodity, you brand it as a wrong action from the Majles platform, then it amounts to misleading the people. Eventually it leads to discrediting the whole system, and that would be against the interests of yourselves, as well as us and the whole society.

The important point I wish to raise here is that we must prepare our speeches for the Majles carefully by analyzing all aspects of the matter. Our speeches must be prepared by respecting the regulations and by observing fairness. No doubt such considerations will make the speech more effective. That is, one must not behave in a manner as to make the government and the Majles regret endorsement of a bill. Of course, there has never been a bill like that. Any bill you have passed has been useful, and we are implementing it as a law. Let us suppose one is against a bill. The person who opposes a bill should find the root of his opposition. For instance, in foreign policy it is very easy from this platform to criticize a person or an act. It is very easy for a deputy to downgrade achievements of thousands of individuals who are striving to add to the honor, prestige and interests of the country.

You have heard of an issue that was recently raised in the U.S. Congress. The U.S. President and America's foreign minister [as heard] went there to say that Iran is disrupting U.S. plans in the region and is an obstacle to its plans. If you only understand the meaning of this remark—and no doubt you do understand—you would realize that such remarks cannot be just a slogan. The remark is made in the Congress, and the foreign minister is answerable. He is very much expected to answer why he made such remarks to refer to Iran in that manner. Such remarks cannot have been made on the spur of the moment. It did not just enter his mind and came out in words. If one were to analyze this alone, one would understand what the Islamic Republic of Iran is doing in the region. Concerning the policy Iran is pursuing, it is said in the U.S. Congress: What are we going to do with this republic that is disrupting all our plans in Central Asia, in the Persian Gulf, in the Middle East, in Lebanon and in Israel, as it is messing up our plans. Is it not then fair if we were to say something against such a regime as theirs?

One thinks that by saying something they will not harm the efforts and programs, which are not the work of one, two or 100 people. These are the work of the Majles, the

government, the Council of Guardians and the judicial department; and they originate from the leadership and above, from the imam. The origin also belongs to our people and to our martyrs.

What I am saying is that what we have is the fruit of our own efforts, and we must not ruin it. When we wish to make some remarks, if we express the points with reason, the right calculations, and by considering all aspects, it would help our own intellectual growth and would also develop our society.

The problems of our economic life are immense. It is really difficult. We are coming through the hardest phase of our life,. the phase of economic adjustment [ta'dil-e eqtesadi]. When other countries pursue this path, several changes of government take place. They make many sacrifices. They make a decision to carry out major surgery, and then the party that made the decision suffers some sacrifices and leaves the operation half-finished. That party is then discarded and another party comes in to take the next step.

It is truly a difficult phase. We are living in circumstances whereby the country's most important asset—that is, the hard currency earned from the sale of oil—is freely distributed among the people, and most of it is devoured by the wealthy. I once said: You can not imagine how much of the oil wealth that we distribute goes to the wealthy, the rich and aristocrats, and how much of it remains as the share of the meek. We intend to turn this life chapter upside down. It is not an easy task. See what is happening in the satellite states of the former Soviet Union. Take a trip to one of those countries and then compare their plight with that of Iran. They are going through the same phase as us.

In addition, we have had to shoulder the burden of war. We are now spending a huge portion of our resources on reconstructing our country, and that is what those states do not have to do. Look at their predicament in terms of water, electricity, fuel, transportation, bread, and shops. If you observe what is going on over there and then compare it with the situation here, you will see how truly well this stage is going. What is needed to complete it is serious solidarity.

The stage of speedy economic reform always has its victims in society. When we have to spend a great part of our resources on a dam that may not be operational for another eight years... [changes thought] Now we are in the process of constructing Karun-3, Karun-4, Karkeh, and other dams, but we will not see any benefit in the period of this government, or even the next government. The benefits will be seen by a third government.

When it comes to expenditures, naturally one place may lose some of its share, which can apply to many places. When we were debating in the cabinet yesterday, we noticed that the the Oil Ministry alone had invested about 150 billion tomans, which is nearly 1.5 times the entire development budget of previous years. That is only one ministry; there are ministries of electricity, telecommunications, PTT [post, telephone, and telegraph], industries, and all our other ministries and foundations that are investing in the country's fundamental projects. The Baft-Bandar Abbas highway, or, for example, the mining projects, the huge Mobarakeh steel project, the huge Gul Gohar project and others are being implemented without any visible results at present, or at least they have not become visible in the past two or three years. Only now are we gradually begining to see results. This is a phase of economic reform. Anywhere else in the world, such a phase of economic reform is carried out under martial law, or under extraordinary measures.

Alongside all this our universities are develping at such a speed—you can see how we have progressed intellectually. The same speed has been applied in developing education and training, and on the illiteracy campaign, on which we are spending around six or seven billion tomans a year.

Normally at such a stage of economic reform, the world postpones care for the deprived areas, but we are currently spending around 60 billion tomans on the deprived areas—25 billion tomans as a Majles bill, and 35 billion tomans on the war-stricken areas—so as to maintain their development. We have the martyrs' families, and the disabled, all of whom have rights in this country, hence large amounts of the budget have been allocated to their welfare. There is the rebuilding of the Armed Forces, since all we had was spent on defense during the war. Under such conditions we should indeed be united.

There can also be criticism. For example, one can criticize the price rise of such and such goods. But if you consider the indices, they are truly a cause of pride. The budget ceiling has come down; there cannot be growth in the GDP [gross domestic product] if the amount spent on our development projects increases, since most of the budget is spent on them. The GDP rate as reported by the Central Bank was increased by over 10 percent last year and by about nine percent this year. Such a growth has little precedence in the world.

The social justice you talk about—the measures used in the country in the past—were against social justice, and I will proceed to tell you about that. All our statistics point to the fact that in the past 10-12 years, the rate of earnings over 10,000 [figure only as heard], that is to say the earnings of the rich strata, increased in relation to that of the poor strata. That is how it has been in the past 10-12 years. Only from 1369 [year beginning 21 March 1990] the trend began to reverse. That is to say, in these two years, a general look at the earnings shows that the poorer strata's rate of earning is now greater. The rate was two percent in 1369; this year's I do not know.

That is to say, for the first time—thanks to the new policies that are being implemented in this plan—social justice is being applied. Some think that social justice means that we should just establish some channel for

giving certain people a little more, but this is not justice, only a kind of sedative. In the end, you saw how in the war period, despite all those strict measures, and the great authority we vested in the government to legislate, judge and execute punishment, some of the rich became richer. Now, however, instead of saying that the plunderers's hands have been stretched, we can see how the trend has been reversed, and that is a fact confirmed by statistics. This is a fact any Majles deputy must definitely know. If he bases his statements on figures, then he must show them, or else he might say that the figures given to him are not correct, in which case he must invite the Central Bank and the Plan and Budget Organization to correct the figures. In any case, the figures are what they are.

Unemployment is falling quite well. The rate of unemployment has come down by neary 3-4 percent, which really is cause for pride. Illiteracy is falling; its rate has come down by 3-4 percent. These are important indices.

The ratio of current expenditure to development expenditure in the budget has been moving in favor of development during the past two or three years. What is important is the set of indices. That somewhere, sometime the price of something goes up somewhat, or something is in short supply or in ample supply; we must not pay attention to these things. If there is something wrong then it must be corrected. Indeed, what we expect of the Majles is to chart the basic and fundamental path for the government. Then it can monitor; if the government does not move along this path, then we can be reminded to return to it.

The country's exports, as you witnessed, were totally blocked in that period [as heard]. Now that we are devoting the country's assets to reconstruction, exports are showing growth rates of more than 100 percent for last year and 50 percent for the first month of the current year. [passage omitted]

The spirit of my word, my important request from the Majles, is that any points that you may have, raise them with the government beforehand so that we can choose a program, a way, together, so that you are provided with the necessary information and you raise your points where you have some problems. We also support your criticisms within any kind of framework you wish. I know that Majles deputies are informed of some issues that we may not have access to. They are in close contact with the people. They learn of issues from deep inside society. They go to villages, to cities, people speak to them; therefore, we should allow them the opportunity to transfer those issues to us. Perhaps the place should be this podium. But they should say what they have to say so that we can hear it. They should transfer the remarks of their people but within the same framework that I mentioned.

Concerning their instructions, the esteemed deputies should consider their actions when the government has no budget for a certain project, because they themselves have not approved the budget for it, and they should not question it 10, 15, 20 times every morning, saying do that to that road, do that to that mine. This creates an expectation, yet you are well aware of the fact that the government has no budget for it. You are aware of the fact that the government cannot violate that certain program—then the people of that village think they have been ignored and their rights have been violated.

That is not to a deputy's advantage, either. In any case, a deputy should not be considered in charge of administrative affairs. He should think: What are those expectations I am creating in people?

One of the mistakes in our work during the period when I was the Majles speaker was that people expected all their problems to be solved by their representatives. And when election time comes and their problems have not been solved they ask their representatives about it. What are your responsibilities? Why should they have such expectations from you? If you did not pass a law properly; if you did not oversee properly; if you did not make your criticisms properly; if you voted for ministers or officials resorting to favoritism and voted for people who were not trustworthy, it is their right to question it. But if a bridge was not built, if a road was not made, some goods became more expensive, then what resources has a deputy to remove those problems?

Why should you take on this responsibility, so that later you fail to answer for it. If this becomes clear generally in your own discussions—you must be the people's voice—then you have conveyed the people's words. If you don't, you have been shirking. You must convey the people's words. And supervise them. I think that if you move with a plan, our way will be clear in answering the people.

In any case, I consider this fourth Majles to be a beloved one for many reasons. I think that the interpretations the imam made for the Majles can be realized in this Majles. We put government resources—within the existing legal limits—at the disposal of the Majles deputies so that together we can go through the difficult path of readjustment within the situation as you see it at the moment.

Let us help reduce the peculiar mischief that is done in the world against the Muslims. What is taking place in Lebanon is really a disaster. Israel, this cancer of humanity, is bombarding innocent villages and towns with artillery and aircraft, forcing thousands to flee, destroying people's homes on top of them, forcing farmers to flee their farms at the time of harvest, yet all the unchivalrous international forums that claim to defend human rights keep silent and say that it is defending its security! What security? Israel has taken Lebanese land. The Lebanese people are defending themselves with tooth and nail to push it out of their land. Then Israel says it has the right to be angry and confront the situation in this way. What sort of United Nations Organization is this? What sort of Security Council is this? What sort of bullying superpower is this that confirms this path? It is obvious that we are faced

with this type of world; with this unfair world. Would they show mercy to us so that... [changes thought] In these circumstances, we must pursue our way sincerely and with unity and cooperation. Of course, we do that. There is a need for it to increase. If we did not, we would not have arrived at this point. Let us pursue our path.

God willing, you should be successful and victorious. Let us not say that the government will not coordinate with the Majles. Let us say the Majles is coordinated with the government. Then we have all performed our tasks with coordination, on the basis of law.

God's peace, compassion and blessing be upon you. [Deputies chant: God's peace be upon Mohammad and his scion]

Allegiance to Imam's Ideals Pledged

LD2805140392 Tehran IRNA in English 1328 GMT 28 May 92

[Text] Tehran, May 28, IRNA—Deputies for the fourth term of the Majles, inaugurated here this morning, pledged allegiance to the ideals of the father of the Islamic Revolution, Imam Khomeyni, by paying homage at his shrine here today.

Senior Majles member Hojjat ol-Eslam Mahdavi Kermani, 62, acting speaker by virtue of age, stressed at the shrine that the deputies should follow the guidelines laid down by the founder of the Islamic Republic in all affairs.

Present in the ceremony was the late Imam's son, Hojjat ol-Eslam Seyyed Ahmad Khomeyni, who called on the deputies to support the government for the better fulfillment of its duties.

He noted that people have placed their hope in the Majles to fight administrative corruption and help the government to overcome social and economic bottlenecks.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Khomeyni said the Majles deputies with the help of government could save the administrative sector from the present unpleasant conditions, "because, if the situation continues, it will become dangerous."

Later, the deputies paid tribute to the martyrs of the Islamic Revolution (1979) and the eight year Iraqi aggression (1980-88).

Hoj. Mahdavi Kermani later led the afternoon prayer at the shrine which was attended by all deputies.

Tehran Calls For 'Urgent' ICO Meeting on Bosnia

LD2805140192 Tehran IRNA in English 1323 GMT 28 May 92

[Text] Athens, May 28, IRNA—Iran's Deputy Foreign Minister Mahmud Va'ezi Thursday said Tehran has called for an urgent meeting of the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) to discuss the situation in the Republic of Bosnia-Hercegovina.

Speaking at a press conference in Athens Thursday, Va'ezi said Iran recalled its ambassador from Belgrade and also informed Serbia that its ambassador was not welcome to Tehran until the problem in Bosnia was resolved. He said Iran also stopped selling oil to Serbia in protest against the massacare of Muslims in Bosnia-Hercegovina by the Serbs.

"We condemn the massacres and call for an immediate stop to the fighting there," he said.

Va'ezi said his 3-day visit to Athens was aimed at strengthening bilateral political, economic and cultural relations between Greece and Iran. Among the issues he discussed with Greek officials included the situation in Bosnia-Hercegovina, the Persian Gulf, the Central Asian republics, the Balkans, the Azerbaijan-Armenian conflict, and Afghanistan.

The joint Greek-Iranian ministerial commission will meet in Terhan most probably in July.

Iran's First Vice-President Hassan Habibi would pay a visit to Athens, most probably this year, following the visit of Greek Premier Mitsotakis to Iran last February.

The two sides also agreed to expand parliamentary relations. Iran's Majles speaker is expected to pay a visit to Athens soon in response to the visit of the president of the Greek Parliament to Tehran early this year, he said.

Va'ezi Thursday met the minister of public works and environment, Akhilleas Karamanlis, and discussed prospects for Greek technical firms to take part in construction of satellite towns outside Tehran. The two men also exchanged views on the importance of the forthcoming Earth summit in Rio de Janeiro for the protection of the world environemnt.

The Iranian official discussed economic and trade relations with the Greek undersecretary of economy Aristides Tsiplakos. He is to meet the undersecretary of foreign affairs, Virginia Tsouderou, and the main opposition leader Andreas Papandreou Thursday evening.

Pakistan

Purchase of Chinese Fighter Aircraft 'Suspended'

BK2705120392 Karachi DAWN in English 27 Apr 92 p 18

[Text] Islamabad, May 26—The Government has suspended the acquisition of 40 F-7/P Chinese fighter aircraft and set up a high-powered commission to examine the deal and other "options available in this behalf."

According to official sources the government has conveyed its decision to China to suspend the acquisition of the aircraft and the Chinese Minister for Aerospace, Mr Wang Ang, who was to visit Pakistan this month to finalise the deal, would not be coming to Islamabad now.

The induction ceremony of the F-7/P had already been held two years ago in Sargodha where President Chulam Ishaq Khan was the chief guest. However, the government, sources said, changed its mind because of the opinion of the experts as well as staggering cost of the aircraft.

The Government had allocated 225 million dollars for the purchase of F-7/P aircraft and also committed to Chinese Government to first make five per cent down payment for the deal.

The high-powered commission was set up by Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif to report back withim two weeks.

Experts are understood to have suggested to the Government to also look for Russian-made SU 23 and 27 fighter aircraft which were comparatively more effective and cheaper than the Chinese ones.

Paper Views Khan's Speech on Nuclear Technology

BK2705115792 Islamabad THE NEWS in English 27 May 92 p 1

[Editorial: "Timely Reiteration"]

[Text] President Ghulam Ishaq Khan had some significant things to say in his speech at the Pakistan Institute of Nuclear Science and Technology (PINSTECH) on Monday. The occasion was the silver jubilee of research activities undertaken by PINSTECH and the inauguration of a redesigned and upgraded research reactor, for which the President justifiably showered much praise on the organization. The President in fact used the opportunity to make a policy statement on Pakistan's nuclear position. Much of this was reiteration of Islamabad's well-known stance. But given the propaganda that is ceaselessly directed at the country's nuclear program, this reiteration is a welcome one, and should help in clearing some of the confusion that is deliberately created by Pakistan's detractors.

The President stressed the peaceful nature of Pakistan's nuclear program, which he described as having achieved a high degree of technical expertise and capability. In a skillfully-crafted exposition of Pakistan's position, President Ishaq assailed what he called technological imperialism practised by nations seeking to deny "the fruits of science to those genuinely wanting to use them for peaceful purposes." The goal of non-proliferation, he said, must not "degenerate into a technical fix or a ploy to eternalize technological imperialism." He correctly recalled that Pakistan was among the first nations to support non-proliferation, and that commitment remained as strong today as it had been in the past. However he pointed out that the way to achieve nuclear non-proliferation was to address and remove the causes of tensions in inter-state relations and create a sense of security among all through non-discriminatory measures and even-handed policies. Although the President did not name the U.S., this part of his speech was clearly directed at Washington and designed to politely point out its double standards on the nuclear issue. This was not all that he addressed to the Americans. He emphasised that "the bombs that devastated Hiroshima and flattened Nagasaki were not hatched by 'unstable countries' and 'irresponsible minds' of the Third World." This was an allusion to the traditional but hackneyed argument long advanced by Western countries that nuclear technology is unsafe the Third World hands. In this context it is encouraging to note the President's remarks about nuclear safety measures adopted by the Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission.

While much of the President's address reiterated major elements of the country's nuclear policy, it also held out an assurance. Coming from the highest level, this has much significance. Said the President: "In consonance with its commitment to non-proliferation, Pakistan would not transfer sensitive nuclear technology to third countries." This public undertaking should help to allay the fear in certain quarters in the West about Pakistan's nuclear intentions. Having said this, the President also made it plain that Pakistan could not, however, be expected to unilaterally forego the development of its peaceful nuclear program. This should serve as an unmistakable signal that, aid embargo or no aid embargo, the country's sovereign right to pursue its nuclear plans will not be compromised.

Federal Officers Set To Maintain Order in Sindh

BK2805142892 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 28 May 92

[Text] The Sindh government, in view of prevailing law and order situation in the province, has made a request under Article 147 of the Constitution for entrusting the function of public security and maintenance of law and order to the officers of the federal government for a period of six months. The federal government has consented to the proposed arrangement and issued necessary orders to the commander, 5th Corps, at Karachi in this regard.

Sharif: Afghan Success Will Encourage Kashmiris

BK2805025092 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 28 May 92

[Text] Prime Minister Mohammad Nawaz Sharif has urged the international community to help the Kashmiri people achieve their right of self-determination. He was speaking at a dinner hosted in his honor by Azad Kashmir Prime Minister Sardar Mohammad Abdul Qayyum Khan in Islambad to convey the greetings of the Kashmiri Government and people at the success of the Afghan people's jehad. He regretted that India, which is violating basic human rights and resorting to genocide in occupied Kashmir, is accusing Pakistan of involvement in terrorism in India to mislead world opinion.

Referring to Afghanistan's independence and restoration of its status as a sovereign and Islamic state, Mohammad Nawaz Sharif said this would encourage the Kashmiri

people, who are struggling for their inalienable rights and pave the way for their success.

Earlier, Azad Kashmir Prime Minister Sardar Mohammad Abdul Qayyum in his welcome address congratulated Mohammad Nawaz Sharif, the Afghan people, and all those countries and forces who helped end the Soviet occupation of Afghanistan and restore the sovereignty of Afghanistan.

Afghan President Stresses Reconstruction, Unity

BK2805151892 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 28 May 92

[Text] The president of the Afghan interim government, Professor Sebghatollah Mojaddedi, says it is time we should move fast for the reconstruction of war-devastated Afghanistan and forget all differences. Addressing an Afghan jergah [assembly] at Peshawar today, he said, at present there is peace, and after one week of the general amnesty position of basic amenities has become stable and officials have begun attending their offices. He said the aim of our 14-year struggle was to establish an Islamic government in Afghanistan. Professor Mojaddedi praised Pakistan for the political and material assistance during jehad of Afghanistan and said the Afghan people will always remember this help. Some ministers of Afghan interim government and minister of state for sports and culture, Malik Mohammad Ajmal Khan, who is also minister in waiting, were also present on the occasion.

Sri Lanka

Forces Launch 'Massive' Offensive Against LTTE

BK2805105492 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 0554 GMT 28 May 92

["OANA/pool" Item]

[Text] Colombo, 28 May (LANKAPUVATH)—Sri Lanka's security forces launched a massive air, sea and land offensive on the LTTE in the entire theatre of war in the country's north-east at dawn Thursday [28 May].

Military sources told LANKAPUVATH that heavy terrorist casualties were reported at 1000 hrs (local time).

In Jaffna, crack seaborne troops supported by strong air cover made a 'deceptive' landing on the beaches of Thondamannar on the northern coast of Jaffna and began advancing on the principal LTTE base at Velvettiturai home base of LTTE leader Prabhakaran, three kilometres east, before moving to Jaffna proper.

The three service commanders are directing operations at Jaffna, Army Commander Major General Cecil Waidiyaratne and Air Force Chief Air Marshal Terrence Gunawardene from the military base at Palaly, and Vice Admiral Clancy Fernando from the naval base at Karainagar.

Latest reports stated troops supported by naval air cover, T-55 tanks and heavy artillery were moving forward overcoming enemy resistance.

They said the LTTE was firing its canons at air force planes.

Military sources told LANKAPUVATH that at Vavuniya government troops had moved from their forward defence locality and were making a major thrust towards Mankulam on the main Mannar-Medawachiya Road.

In the north western Mannar District, troops were reported moving forward from Vedittalu.

In the north east, at Weli Oya in the Mullaittivu District.

In the east, major operations against the tigers began at dawn in Trincomalee and Batticaloa and in the jungles of Thoppigala where the LTTE have their main base complex.

Croatia, Slovenia, Bosnia-Hercegovina Recognized

LD2805172592 Zagreb HTV Television in Serbo-Croatian 1600 GMT 28 May 92

[Text] Sri Lanka has officially recognized Croatia, Slovenia, and Bosnia-Hercegovina. This was revealed in Colombo late last night. Sri Lanka is the 77th country to recognize the independence of the Republic of Croatia.